

*Informativo*  
*Mundial das Missões*  
**Divisão Sul do Pacífico**  
**3º trimestre de 2019**



## **1º Sábado**

### **Conquistando os pais alcóolatrás**

Os pais de Talitha Hoyato eram alcóolatrás e viciados em jogos de azar. Eles viviam em Goroka, uma cidade montanhosa em Papua Nova Guiné e, ocupando muito tempo em satisfazer os vícios, costumavam se esquecer da filha de oitos ano em casa. Por isso, acharam muito bom quando uma bondosa vizinha pediu para adotá-la. A vizinha levou a pequena Talitha para casa e ensinou a ela para que a chamasse de “mamãe”.

Certo dia, às cinco horas da manhã, Talitha acordou com o alarme do relógio. Ela viu a mãe se levantar da cama, ajoelhar-se e conversar com Deus mencionando seu nome. Em seguida, abriu um livro de capa preta e o leu demoradamente.

No dia seguinte, o alarme a despertou no mesmo horário e, mais uma vez, observou a mãe orar e ler a Bíblia. Naquele dia, mais tarde, várias visitas chegaram e pediram conselhos para solução de problemas pessoais. A mãe de Talitha orava com as mulheres e compartilhava conselhos inspirados, daquele livro de capa preta que Talitha descobriu ser a Bíblia.

Talitha começou a imitar a mãe. Quando o alarme tocava ela também se ajoelhava para orar e, depois, lia a Bíblia. A mãe ensinou a compartilhar as lições aprendidas com a leitura da Bíblia. Enquanto orava, lia e testemunhava de Jesus, comprovou que Ele respondia às orações. Então, cada vez mais acreditou em Deus. Os anos se passaram, Talitha cresceu e foi batizada aos 17 anos.

Não muito tempo depois do batismo, a mãe informou que ela precisava voltar à casa dos pais biológicos. “Você tem certeza?”, Talitha perguntou em prantos. “Quer mesmo que eu volte?” Com lágrimas nos olhos, a mãe disse que era uma decisão muito difícil, mas acreditava que era a coisa certa a fazer. “Como você aceitou Jesus, chegou o momento de mostrar a seus pais o seu Salvador”, disse.

Talitha foi para a casa dos pais, que a receberam com surpresa. Porém, embora estivessem muito contentes com a volta da filha, eles não queriam ouvir sobre Jesus. Sempre que Talitha tentava, eles murmuravam algo grosseiro e se afastavam. Bem

estabelecida em casa, ela fez amizade com seus três irmãos mais novos, dois meninos e uma menina que não conhecia, e continuava com o bom hábito de acordar às cinco da manhã para ler a Bíblia e orar.

Ela tentava conversar com os pais sobre o que lia, mas eles recusavam ouvir. Mas, quando eles dormiam, ela se aproximava da cama, lia as histórias bíblicas e orava por eles, sempre se lembrando do que a mãe adotiva dissera: “O trabalho de conversão não é nosso, é a obra de Deus.” Depois de um ano, a mãe concordou em ir à igreja, mas receava que os membros da igreja fossem zombar dela. Todos sabiam que era viciada em bebida alcóolica e jogos de azar. Talitha a tranquilizou. “Deus vê o coração”, disse. “Quando Jesus esteve na Terra, misturava-Se com pessoas como você. Por isso, não se preocupe com o que os outros podem falar. Existe alegria no céu quando um pecador se arrepende.”

A mãe adotiva de Talitha ficou muito feliz ao ver a mãe biológica na igreja. Ela cumprimentou-a e as três crianças com um grande abraço. “Não se preocupe se as pessoas julgarem você”, ela disse. “Deus vê o coração e tem um plano para sua vida.” O pai nada falou quando a mãe voltou da igreja. Talitha o convidou a se unir a eles, mas ele recusou. “Você é uma garota”, disse. “Não me diga o que fazer.”

Certo dia, Talitha leu em Daniel 4:28-37 que Deus transformou o rei Nabucodonosor em animal para que O conhecesse. Então, ela decidiu que mudaria o foco na oração em favor do pai. “Querido Pai! Se o Senhor pôde transformar um Rei em um animal para que percebesse que o Senhor é Deus, então olhe para meu pai, que é um homem comum. Por favor, faça algo que lhe cause dor para que ele O reconheça!”

Pouco tempo depois da oração, o pai foi preso. Ele trabalhava como engenheiro elétrico, não concluiu um trabalho que já havia sido pago e o contratante decidiu enviá-lo para a prisão. Depois de três meses, foi solto e começou a participar da classe batismal.

Talitha ficou muito feliz! Porém, um mês depois, o pai morreu de febre tifoide, aos 45 anos. Ela ficou sem entender o que aconteceu. Desejava que toda a família frequentasse a igreja todos os sábados. Mas, embora estivesse triste com a morte do pai, ficou feliz porque Deus respondeu à sua oração.

“Nem sempre acontece o que desejamos, mas o caminho de Deus é sempre perfeito”, ela diz. “Eu desejava que meu pai se tornasse adventista para que fôssemos juntos para a igreja como família, mas isso não aconteceu. Porém, sou grata porque

ele morreu acreditando em Jesus. E quando Ele vier, toda a família estará no Céu.” A mãe dela continua frequentando a igreja e, em breve, será batizada. Os irmãos também participam dos cultos.

Talitha, tem 19 anos e estuda Pedagogia. Ela é feliz por ter duas mães: a mãe biológica e a mãe adotiva. Ela diz: “Sempre agradeço a Deus por minha mãe adotiva, que me ensinou a ser discípula na tenra idade. Agora é parte de mim testemunhar de Cristo em todo lugar que for.”

Há três anos, parte da oferta trimestral ajudou a construir salas de Escola Sabatina na cidade que Talitha mora em Papua Nova Guiné. Ficamos agradecidos!

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### **Sugestões da história**

- Pergunte à congregação como cada membro pode ser “testemunha onde for”. Uma resposta é ler a Bíblia nas primeiras horas do dia e compartilhar o que leu com amigos, família e outras pessoas durante o dia.
- Ler outra história sobre Talitha na próxima semana.
- Assistir ao vídeo sobre Talitha no *link*: [bit.ly/Talitha-Hoyato](https://bit.ly/Talitha-Hoyato).
- Encontre fotos desta história no *link*: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).

## **2º Sábado**

### **Olhos roxos**

Talitha Hoyato, uma moça de 19 anos, ficou chocada ao ver a colega de quarto com os dois olhos roxos. “O que aconteceu?”, ela perguntou. Em resposta, a colega Doreen, 23 anos, levantou a blusa para mostrar os hematomas nas costas. “Meu marido é alcóolatra e fez isso comigo”, Doreen disse em prantos. “Você não pode voltar para casa”, Talitha aconselhou. Mas, Doreen ia para casa sempre que havia

oportunidade. Ela precisava cuidar de um bebê com um ano, criado pela sogra em Mount Hagen, Papua Nova Guiné. De fato, sentia muita saudade do filhinho.

Doreen encontrou em Talitha uma ouvinte solidária. Elas estudavam pedagogia no *Simbu Teachers College*, em Kundiawa, localizado a três horas de viagem da casa de Doreen. “Minha vida é infeliz. Não sei como mudar e ser uma boa mãe e esposa”, Doreen disse. Talitha pensou na melhor maneira para responder e lembrou-se das mulheres com problemas matrimoniais que pediam conselhos à sua mãe, que sempre respondia com os sábios textos da Bíblia. “Minha mãe diz que ninguém pode mudar uma pessoa, mas Deus pode. Ele nos criou e sabe como nos transformar”, sugerindo então que Doreen orasse e lesse a Bíblia todas as manhãs.

Uma das primeiras coisas que Doreen notou ao morarem juntas é que Talitha fazia um culto todas as manhãs. Ela acordava às cinco horas para orar e ler a Bíblia. Foi assim que Doreen soube que os pais da colega eram alcóolatas e que havia sido criada por uma senhora adventista, com a qual aprendeu a fazer sua devoção diariamente.

Doreen saiu para o recesso. Ao voltar para as aulas, Talitha tinha uma surpresa para ela: entregou-lhe algumas folhas de papel nas quais havia copiado três histórias da Bíblia, incluindo a experiência de mudança de vida da mulher samaritana que encontrou Jesus junto ao poço (João 4: 1-42). Ela também copiou uma história do Informativo das Missões dos Adultos e outra história de missionária no Informativo Mundial dos Menores. “Você pode ler quando tiver tempo”, Talitha disse.

Doreen gostou das histórias e pediu mais. Então, Talitha contou como e quando, há um ano, começou a orar por seu pai biológico e como ele rejeitou todos os apelos para aceitar a Deus. Porém, enquanto ela continuava orando, ele foi preso por descumprir um contrato de trabalho. Nessa ocasião, voltou-se para Deus na prisão. Ela esperava que ele fosse libertado para que pudessem ir à igreja juntos. “Deus também pode transformar seu marido!”, Talitha disse. Doreen se sentiu tocada pelas histórias e começou a orar pelo marido diariamente. Certa manhã, Talitha acordou às cinco horas e viu que a colega de quarto já estava acordada lendo a Bíblia. Ela ficou muito emocionada.

Dois meses se passaram e a sogra de Doreen ligou com notícias surpreendentes. Disse que o marido de Doreen, que nunca trabalhara um dia em sua vida no jardim, e muito menos tocado em uma pá, havia cavado e plantado mudas por conta própria.

“Você está brincando?”, Doreen perguntou. “Venha e comprove por si mesma”, a sogra respondeu.

No recesso seguinte Doreen foi para casa e viu o jardim. Pela primeira vez na vida, seu marido tentava cuidar da esposa e do restante da família. Ele também deixou de beber. Ninguém do lugar onde moravam conseguia acreditar na mudança. De volta ao residencial, Doreen agradeceu a Talitha com um abraço. “Louvado seja Deus!”, Talitha diz. “Deus está trabalhando.”

Um ano depois, Doreen continua fazendo o culto matinal regularmente. Ela e o marido frequentam a igreja juntos e nunca mais sofreu violência física. “Agora eu sou uma mãe feliz com um esposo feliz”, diz.

Doreen é uma das muitas pessoas que aprenderam sobre Deus através de Talitha. Embora só tenha 19 anos, ela gosta de falar a todos sobre Jesus e Sua justiça. E dá seu testemunho: “Minha mãe adotiva ensinou a ser discípula de Jesus desde a tenra infância e, por isso, sou muito grata ao Senhor. Em todo lugar onde vou compartilho sobre Jesus. Quando vejo as notícias digo: ‘veja, isso nos mostra que Jesus está voltando.’ Precisamos ser fiéis e não perder a esperança em Cristo.”

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### **Sugestões para a história**

- Ler outra história sobre Talitha na semana passada.
- Assistir ao vídeo sobre Talitha no *link*: [bit.ly/Talitha-Hoyato2](https://bit.ly/Talitha-Hoyato2).
- Encontre fotos para esta história no *link*: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).

3º Sábado

## **Ministério de intercessão**

Durante a jubilação, muitos pastores adventistas retornam à terra natal e passam seus últimos anos em casa com a família. Não Okanama Kevi, pastor veterano do vilarejo de Ura, nas regiões montanhosas do Pacífico Sul. A vida dele ficou ainda mais

agitada quando se sentiu chamado por Deus para iniciar um ministério de intercessão em tempo integral.

O nome do pastor Okanama se tornou conhecido em Papua Nova Guiné, à medida que Deus respondia às suas preces de maneira muito especial. Os adventistas e pessoas de outras denominações o chamam em seu celular e batem à porta de sua cabana em uma floresta montanhosa. Ele compilou uma longa lista de pessoas em favor das quais ora a Deus todas as manhãs e noites.

Certo dia, um pastor de outra denominação apareceu na casa do pastor Okanama. O visitante, Ricky, morava em outra província e ouviu do ministério de oração do pastor enquanto resolvia assunto de sua igreja em Ura. Ricky chegou à casa do pastor Okanama com a esposa grávida. “Por favor, pode orar por minha esposa?”, Ricky pediu. “Já completaram as semanas de gravidez e estamos muito preocupados.” O pastor Okanama ungiu a esposa com azeite de oliva e orou por ela e, passados dois dias, deu à luz uma menina saudável.

No sábado seguinte, Rick foi à igreja adventista com a esposa e seis filhos, incluindo a recém-nascida. Imediatamente, o pastor Okanama o convidou participar, com a esposa, da classe batismal da igreja, que ele dirigia. Os cinco filhos mais velhos do casal, com idades entre oito e doze anos, também começaram a estudar a Bíblia. Em agosto de 2017, após vários meses de estudo, o casal e seus cinco filhos foram batizados. “Ricky abandonou a antiga igreja e seu trabalho como pastor”, disse o pastor Okanama em uma entrevista. “Ele é um membro fiel em nossa igreja.”

Após o batismo de Ricky, um pastor de sua antiga igreja visitou a igreja adventista na aldeia. Tendo oportunidade de falar algo após o culto no sábado, ele se levantou e, chorando, fez um discurso emotivo. “Eu investi muito no Ricky”, disse. “Agora ele me abandonou e veio para a Igreja Adventista. Vocês se importam com ele, assim como eu.” Dito isso, ele abençoou a decisão de Ricky.

Além do trabalho como pastor, Ricky possuía duas pequenas empresas de aluguel e venda de carros. Após o batismo, ele chamou o Pastor Okanama para dedicar a empresa ao Senhor. O pastor realizou a tarefa com alegria. “Ele é fruto do meu ministério de intercessão”, diz o pastor Okanama, 66 anos. “Através desse ministério oro por muitos pastores.” Ele não tem nenhum plano para se aposentar. E vocês?

Parte da oferta do trimestre de 2016 ajudou a construir salas de Escola Sabatina para as crianças em Papua Nova Guiné, na região onde o pastor Okanama vive. Muito obrigado pelas ofertas missionárias.

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### **Sugestões para a história**

- Assista ao vídeo sobre o pastor Okanama no *link*: [bit.ly/Okanama-Kevi-2](https://bit.ly/Okanama-Kevi-2).
- Encontre fotos desta história no *link*: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).

**Children's Mission**

**Third Quarter, 2019**



## **South Pacific Division**

### **3-19 Children's Mission**

**Caption: Pending**

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## **Your Offerings at Work**

Three years ago, part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering funded children's Sabbath School classrooms at two churches on the island of Maré in New Caledonia. You can read a story from Maré on page 6.

**[Insert photo here.]**

Dear Sabbath School Leader,

This quarter we feature the South Pacific Division, which oversees the Seventh-day Adventist Church's work in American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna Islands.

God is doing amazing things in this region of 40.5 million people, including 518,016 Adventists. (That's a ratio of one Adventist for 78 people.) I always pray for God's blessings during trips to collect mission stories. But this time I started praying extra early — four months

before the trip began. Every morning, I asked God to provide the best stories in the South Pacific Division.

God answered those prayers in a mighty way. As I traveled to six countries over three weeks, I noticed an incredible increase in the number of powerful mission stories. I am convinced more than ever that Jesus is coming soon!

This quarter's three Thirteenth Sabbath projects are diverse.

"Save 10,000 Toes" aims to provide health training to prevent the amputation of the toes of people with diabetes. Across the South Pacific Division, doctors amputate 80 toes every day, or a toe every 10 minutes during waking hours, the division's associate health director Paul Rankin told me. He said 19 percent of the region's population of 40.5 million suffer from Type 2 diabetes, a disease caused by poor lifestyle choices. The figure jumps to 47 percent in American Samoa, one of the seven countries that will benefit from the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

Another project focuses on bringing Hope Channel to Tonga. A 2016 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering made Hope Channel available to all homes in New Zealand, and many people have entered Adventist churches as a result. Let's pray for a similar blessing in Tonga.

Additional information about these projects and the third one — to produce a children's animated series — can be found in the box on this page.

## **Special Features**

If you want to make your Sabbath School class come alive, visit our Facebook page at the link: [facebook.com/missionquarterlies](https://facebook.com/missionquarterlies). Every week, we post additional materials to go with each mission story. You could show the photos to the children on your computer or mobile device while you read the mission story, or you could print the photos to decorate your Sabbath School room or church bulletin board.

This quarterly contains just a sample of the latest mission stories from the South Pacific Division. For more great stories, visit [bit.ly/spd-archive](https://bit.ly/spd-archive), which will take you to all the division stories. At this link, you can also search for stories by country and theme.

You also can download the PDF version of the youth and adult Mission magazine at [bit.ly/adultmission](http://bit.ly/adultmission), and Mission Spotlight videos at [bit.ly/missionspotlight](http://bit.ly/missionspotlight). A printable mission-bank image, which the children can color, can be downloaded at [bit.ly/bank-coloring-page](http://bit.ly/bank-coloring-page).

If you have found especially effective ways to share mission stories, please let me know at [mcchesneya@gc.adventist.org](mailto:mcchesneya@gc.adventist.org).

Thank you for encouraging children to be mission minded!

Andrew McChesney

Editor

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### **Opportunities**

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help to:

- “Save 10,000 Toes,” a campaign to prevent toe amputations through health services in Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Kiribati, and Tonga.
- Construct Hope TV and radio studios in Tongatapu, Tonga.
- Produce “Daniel Children’s Series,” a 13-part animated series for children aged 8-12 following the adventures of Daniel and his three friends, in Australia.

—End Box—

## Banana Boy

Albert Andrea, 11

New Caledonia

July 6

Eleven-year-old Albert Andrea was hungry when Mother picked him up at school in Noumea, capital of New Caledonia in the South Pacific.

He had only eaten half his lunch because he didn't like the other half — spinach.

"Mommy, I really would love to eat a banana," Albert said. "Can we go to that little market and buy a banana?"

Mother also wanted to go to the market to buy parsley and spring onions to cook tuluk, a traditional Vanuatuan dish made of cassava and coconut milk. But she only had 500 francs, just enough money to buy parsley and spring onions.

Albert couldn't forget the banana. As they drove to the market, he spoke about how nice it would be to have a banana.

"Albert," Mother said, "you need to pray about that banana because you really want to eat one."

Albert prayed out loud, "Please, Jesus, can I have a banana? Amen."

Mother was happy to hear the prayer.

"That's good," she said. "You'll see that Jesus will answer your prayer."

Arriving at the outdoor market, Mother told Albert to wait in the car while she shopped. Albert waited as long as he could, but the car grew terribly hot. He got out to wait. The first thing that he saw was a man selling bananas.

Then someone walked up to Albert. He was a white man wearing white clothing and a white shawl over his head. In his hands, he held a bunch of yellow bananas.

"Albert," the man said, softly. "Here are some bananas for you."

Albert was surprised. "How does he know my name?" he wondered. But he accepted the bananas and said out loud, "Thank you!"

"Bye-bye, Albert," the man said.

"Bye-bye," Albert replied. "Thank you!"

Albert returned to the car and peeled a banana. It was nice and ripe and soft.

When Mother came back, she was surprised — and worried — to see Albert eating bananas. "Where did you get those bananas?" she asked.

"From the man in the white hoodie," Albert said.

"But, Albert, where is the man?" Mother said. "Let's thank him."

Mother and Albert looked, but they couldn't find the man. Tears filled Mother's eyes as she realized that Jesus had answered Albert's prayer. She asked whether Albert had thanked God.

Albert, holding a half-eaten banana in his hand, prayed, "Thank you, Jesus, for my bananas. Amen."

Albert believes that the man in white was an angel.

“I prayed to Jesus, and Jesus must have told an angel to give me bananas,” he said.  
“The bananas were really nice!”

Part of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago helped build two children’s Sabbath School classrooms on Maré, an island in New Caledonia. Thank you for your Sabbath School mission offering.

By Andrew McChesney

### **Sidebar: Two More Prayers**

Albert says God has answered many prayers.

Albert catches and sells fish to help his parents. One day, as Albert was fishing, Mother walked by and saw a big fish in the ocean.

“Wow, that’s a big fish!” she said.

Albert prayed, “Can I have that fish?”

He threw out his fishing line and immediately caught the fish.

On another day, Albert told Mother before school that he wanted scoubidou (pronounced: “Scooby-Doo”), colorful plastic strings that children weave into keychains and other handicrafts. Mother, who works as a housekeeper, cleaning someone’s house, said she only had money for bus fare to go to work.

Albert prayed.

Later that day as Mother was cleaning, the house owner said, “Here is a big basket of scoubidou. Do you want to take it for your son?”

Mother looked at him in shock. “Wow!” she said. “This is an answer to my son’s prayer this morning.”

At home, she greeted Albert after school. “Look in the hall,” she said. “I have a surprise for you.”

The boy went to the hall and spotted the basket.

“Oh Mommy!” he exclaimed. “Where did you get them from? Thank you, Mommy!”

## Story Tips

- Find Noumea, New Caledonia, on the map.
- Share that Mother believes that Jesus has a special place in His heart for Albert. She learned recently that Albert was born with a hole in his heart. Doctors say he will suffer seizures his whole life.
- Share that God has answered many prayers in Albert's family. Mother, whose name is Annie Andrea, didn't believe in God. But Father prayed for many years, and she was baptized in 2015.
- Watch a video of Albert at the link: [bit.ly/Albert-Andrea](http://bit.ly/Albert-Andrea).
- Find photos for this story at the link: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq).



## **Saved by a Finger**

**Catherine Buama, 17**

**New Caledonia**

**July 13**

The airline representative at the airport check-in desk shook her head.

“I’m sorry, but your ticket isn’t for this flight,” she said.

Sixteen-year-old Catherine Buama looked at her e-ticket. Sure enough, Father and Mother had purchased a ticket with the wrong date. Catherine had just finished a vacation at home on the island of Maré in New Caledonia. She needed to fly back to the main island to resume her high school studies.

But every seat on the plane was occupied, and the plane left without Catherine.

Catherine’s parents decided to spend the night near the airport and to try to get a seat on the airplane the next day.

That evening, Father noticed that a three-week evangelistic series was starting at a Seventh-day Adventist church near the airport. Catherine and Mother had never visited an Adventist church. Unknown to them, Father had read the Bible and decided 10 years earlier that he wanted to become an Adventist. But he didn’t want to be the only Adventist in his family, so he had prayed for 10 years for his wife to become an Adventist.

At the meeting that evening, Catherine began to pay attention when the pastor spoke about alcohol.

“Alcohol destroys the body,” the pastor said. “You shouldn’t drink because the Bible says our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.”

Catherine poked Father in the arm. Father drank every Sunday.

Father felt guilty when he received the poke. He knew that he shouldn’t drink. But he didn’t know what to say, so he smiled at Catherine.

Then the pastor spoke about smoking.

“Cigarettes destroy the body,” he said. “You shouldn’t smoke because the Bible says our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.”

Catherine poked Mother in the arm. Mother smoked a pack of cigarettes every day.

Mother felt guilty. She knew that she shouldn’t smoke. But she didn’t know what to say, so she smiled at Catherine.

Then the pastor spoke about McDonald’s.

“The food at McDonald’s isn’t healthy, and it can make you ill,” he said.

Father and Mother poked Catherine. She ate at McDonald’s every weekend.

Catherine felt guilty. She knew that she shouldn’t eat at McDonald’s. But she didn’t know what to say, so she smiled at her parents.

When the meeting ended, the family left deep in thought.

The next morning, Catherine got a seat on the plane and flew off to high school.

Father and Mother decided to return to the evangelistic meeting that night. They also went the next night.

During the second week of the meetings, the pastor asked who wanted to give their hearts to Jesus. Mother stood up! Father and Mother were baptized on the last Sabbath of the meetings.

When Catherine returned home for vacation, she saw big changes in her parents. Father no longer drank, and Mother had quit smoking. Catherine liked her new home, and she decided to stop eating at McDonald’s. She is glad that God answered Father’s prayers.

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago that helped build two children’s Sabbath School classrooms on Maré, where this family lives.

By Andrew McChesney

#### Story tips

- Find the island Maré in New Caledonia on the map.
- Father’s name is Georges, and Mother’s name is Sophie. Read a story about her in the youth and adult Mission magazine.
- After Mother quit smoking, she calculated that she had spent 30,000 francs (\$270) every month on cigarettes. She is glad to save that much money every month!
- Watch a video of Georges at the link: [bit.ly/Georges-Buama](https://bit.ly/Georges-Buama).
- Find photos for this story at the link: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).

## **Owner Said Nothing**

**Felix Wadrobot, 59**

**New Caledonia**

**July 20**

Seventeen-year-old Felix Wadrobot had graduated from high school and was working at a bookstore in Noumea, capital of the South Pacific territory of New Caledonia.

Felix wanted to earn money to send to his parents on his home island, Maré. His parents were poor farmers who grew sweet potatoes, yams, bananas, cabbage, lettuce, radishes, and taro.

One day, a coworker invited Felix to a music concert at a Seventh-day Adventist church. Felix belonged to another Christian denomination, but he decided to go to the concert because the church was located just down the street from the house where he lived with relatives.

At the concert, the young people welcomed Felix warmly. It was like they knew him already. Felix felt good, and he quickly made new friends.

After that evening, Felix returned to church every Friday evening to sing with the church's youth choir. But he didn't go to church because he had to work Saturdays.

One day, the church pastor told Felix, "I'm glad that you are spending time with the young people at church, but you also should study the Bible."

Felix liked the idea and began to study 24 Bible lessons with the pastor. When they reached the lesson about Sabbath, Felix read that God created the Earth and set aside the seventh day of the week to rest. He read that the Four Commandment says the seventh day is the Sabbath.

The pastor said the seventh day was Saturday.

Felix was surprised. He had always thought that Sabbath was on Sunday.

Back at work, he wondered which day is the true Sabbath. He suddenly remembered that he worked in a bookstore and could look for answers in a dictionary.

Felix opened a dictionary to the entry for Sunday. He read that Sunday is the first day of the week. He turned to "Saturday" and read that Saturday is the seventh day of the week.

"This is exactly what the pastor told me during Bible studies!" Felix thought.

From that moment, he believed that Saturday is true Sabbath.

But he had to work on Saturdays, so he asked the pastor for help. The pastor suggested that he ask the bookstore owner for Saturdays off or quit his job.

On Monday, Felix approached the bookstore owner behind the cash register. The owner who was not a Christian.

"I would like to stop working on Saturdays because it is the Sabbath day," Felix said. "I can work an extra hour every day to make up for it."

The owner looked at Felix and didn't say a word. Felix returned to his work.

On Wednesday, he went to the owner again and asked for Saturday off. The owner just looked at Felix and didn't say anything.

Felix prayed. He liked working at the bookstore and wanted to send money to his parents. But he didn't want to break the Sabbath.

On Friday, Felix prayed especially hard as he worked. Finally, it was time to close the bookstore.

The owner turned to Felix. "I'd like to drop you off at your house," he said.

Felix was surprised. He always went home by bus.

The owner didn't say anything during the drive. Felix also was silent, and he wondered what would happen next.

The owner stopped the car in front of Felix's house, and Felix opened the door to get out.

"Felix," the owner said. "Tomorrow you can go to the church."

Felix was shocked and happy. He immediately prayed, "Thank You, God!"

Felix never had to work on Sabbath in the bookstore. He also never had to work extra hours to make up for missing work on Saturdays. To this day, he doesn't know exactly why the owner decided to give him Saturdays off. But he is certain that God touched the owner's heart.

Felix finished the Bible studies with the pastor and was baptized. He later became a pastor, and today he is the leader of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for all of New Caledonia.

"God is always with us when we face difficulties," he said. "He answers in His time, not our time, and He knows what is best for us."

Part of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago helped build two children's Sabbath School classrooms on Maré, the island where Felix grew up. Thank you for your Sabbath School mission offerings that help other children learn about prayer and the power of God.

By Andrew McChesney

Story tips

- Find the island Maré in New Caledonia on the map.
- Watch a video of Felix at the link: [bit.ly/Felix-Wadrobot](https://bit.ly/Felix-Wadrobot).
- Find photos for this story at the link: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).

## **Special Gift From God**

**Julius Philomin, 13**

**New Caledonia**

**July 27**

Mother woke up 13-year-old Julius Philomin at 4:30 a.m. in their hometown of Mont-Dore in New Caledonia.

“Julius, you have to go to school,” she said. “Get ready.”

Julius got up and went outside to play with the family’s three dogs.

Mother called him back inside.

“Did you forget that you have to go to school?” she said.

Julius felt bad for not listening and put a pot of water on the outdoor fire to boil water for his bath. After bathing, he dressed in his school uniform. Mother reminded him to put on his glasses, to place hearing aids in his ears, and to grab his school bag.

After Mother reminded Julius about breakfast, he poured cream of wheat porridge into a mug and climbed into the car with his 8-year-old brother. He ate the porridge as Mother drove in heavy traffic toward school.

After eating, he took a toothbrush and a bottle of water from his school bag and brushed his teeth. Every time he needed to spit, he motioned with his hand for Mother to stop the car.

Mother and the two boys arrived at school in time for classes at 7 a.m. Mother silently prayed for both sons as she left, but she prayed extra for Julius. At school, the other children were mean to him. He stayed away from them and only played with those who wanted to play with him. Usually he played alone.

Julius is a special gift from God. He was born dead. His heart wasn’t beating when Mother gave birth to him. Doctors somehow started his heart, but he lay in a coma for two and a half weeks. Doctors said his brain was damaged and he would not be a normal child.

But today Julius is normal in every way. He just requires constant reminders. Every morning Mother has to remind him to wake up and get dressed. Every morning, she has to tell him to stop playing with the dogs and, again, to get dressed. She reminds him about his glasses, hearing aids, school bag, and breakfast.

Julius also was selfish. When he packed breakfast, he never thought about helping Little Brother. Mother wanted him to be generous and helpful, and she spoke with him after school.

“If you want to go to heaven, you have to have a heart like Jesus,” Mother said.

“Jesus has a sharing heart. If you are going to prepare porridge for yourself, you have to try to put your brother first and prepare for him.”

Julius didn’t say anything.

Mother didn’t raise the matter with Julius again. Instead, she prayed every morning and evening for God to give her son a sharing heart.

Several weeks passed, and Mother was surprised one morning to hear Julius call out to Little Brother.

“Come take a bath,” he said. “I have heated a pot of water for you on the fire.”

When Mother reminded Julius about breakfast, he washed Little Brother’s mug and filled it with porridge. Then he filled his own mug.

Mother was overjoyed!

Little by little, Julius has changed and become helpful to Little Brother and other people. Recently, he told Mother that he would like to become a preacher. Mother believes God will help him.

“I don’t know how God answered my prayer for my son not to be selfish, but He did,” Mother said. “So, He can also answer my prayer for Julius to work for Him. God works in mysterious ways.”

By Andrew McChesney

### Story Tips

- Find New Caledonia on the map. Mont-Dore is located a little north of the capital, Noumea.
- Share that “Mont-Dore” means “Golden Mount.”
- Ask what the children think Julius’ first sermon will be. Suggest that this story is his first sermon. It is his personal testimony about what God has done for him.
- Tell the children that they are giving a sermon every time they share with others what God has done for them.
- Julius’ mom is Barbara Philomin.
- Watch a video of Julius at the link: [bit.ly/Julius-Philomin](https://bit.ly/Julius-Philomin).
- Find photos for this story at the link: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).

## **Giving Away Money**

**Litea Cavalevu, 15**

**Fiji**

**August 3**

Father pulled out several banknotes as 15-year-old Litea ate her breakfast of oatmeal and bread.

"Here," he said, handing her 80 Fijian dollars, or about U.S.\$40. "This is for the school fees that you need to pay for the year. Make sure that you pay your teacher and bring home the receipt."

The new school year had just begun for Litea in Fiji. Tuition was free at her Seventh-day Adventist school, just as it was at all schools in Fiji. But students needed to make a special payment for field trips and other expenses.

Litea took the money. "I'll give you the receipt after school," she promised.

When she arrived at school, she immediately went to Teacher and held out the money. Teacher opened a book.

"No," he said after a moment. "I don't need the money. Your fees already have been paid."

Litea was surprised, and she sat down at her desk. Teacher looked in the book again and began to call out the names of students who had not paid their fees. One of those students was Litea's friend, Ilisavani.

Litea knew that Ilisavani's family didn't have much money. Ilisavani's father was working in faraway Australia, picking oranges as a seasonal farm laborer. But he wasn't earning much money to send home to Fiji. Ilisavani's mother was struggling to feed her and her three brothers and sisters.

Litea went over to Ilisavani.

"Here," she said. "Use this money to pay your fees."

"No," Ilisavani protested. "I can't take your money."

Litea pressed the money into her hand. Ilisavani, with tears of gratitude in her eyes, accepted the banknotes and gave them to Teacher. Teacher filled out a receipt.

Father, who worked at the church's headquarters in Fiji, wasn't at home when Litea returned from school. He forgot about the money until the family was eating a supper of taro and soup. Litea looked uncomfortable when he asked.

"There was a problem," she said, hesitantly. "I went to the teacher to pay him the money, and the teacher told me, 'Your fees have already been paid.'"

At that moment, Father remembered that his workplace had taken the money for the fees from his salary and sent it directly to the school. He had forgotten about that.

"What happened to the money that I gave you?" he asked.

Litea told how she had given the money to her needy friend.

Father and Mother were shocked. Eighty dollars was a lot of money. They exclaimed in unison, "WHAT?!"

Litea squirmed in her seat. She didn't want her parents to be unhappy.

Then Father and Mother looked at each other and smiled. They realized that Litea was putting into practice a Bible verse that she had learned in Sabbath School. The verse, Matthew 22:39, says, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Father turned to Litea.

"We're glad that you did that," he said. "Thank you for looking out for your friend."

Litea heaved a sigh of relief. "Thank you for understanding," she said.

The next day, Ilisavani's mother called Litea's mother on the phone. She was crying.

"Thank you very much for what your daughter did," she said. "You know our family situation. Thank you."

"You can thank Jesus," Mother said.

Father, whose full name is Save Cavalevu, is glad that Sabbath School taught Litea how to love others, and he hopes that many children will learn the same lesson at his Narere Seventh-day Adventist Church. Thank you for your offerings that helped build children's Sabbath School classrooms in Fiji.

By Andrew McChesney

### Story Tips

- Find Fiji on the map.
- Pronounce Litea as: lit-EE-a.
- Pronounce Ilisavani as: il-ee-sav-AN-EE.
- Pronounce Save as: sa-VAY.
- Watch a video of Save Cavalevu at the link: [bit.ly/Save-Cavalevu](https://bit.ly/Save-Cavalevu).
- Find photos for this story at the link: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).



## **Only One Leg**

**Senitiki Roqara, 55**

**Fiji**

**August 10**

Senitiki Roqara put on his work clothes on Saturday morning and headed for the door.

His wife, Vasemaca, wearing her Sabbath best, stopped him.

“Where are you going?” she asked.

“To the wharf to load and unload shipping containers as usual,” he said.

Senitiki knew that his wife wanted him to go to church with her and their children. When she was baptized a few years earlier, she had invited him to church every Sabbath. But he didn’t go, and eventually his wife stopped inviting him. Instead she prayed for him.

Senitiki walked out the door on the sunny Saturday morning and headed for the wharf in Fiji’s capital, Suva. It was going to be a long day. He had work from Saturday morning to Sunday morning, loading big cargo containers onto ships and off of ships at the wharf.

The long hours passed, and the workload eased up at 2 a.m. It was dark, and Senitiki sat down on some stairs to rest. He chatted with some coworkers, who also were taking a break, and then stretched out his legs to take a nap. He fell asleep.

Suddenly, a searing pain shot through his body. Senitiki jumped to his feet, and someone shouted, “Oh no! Look at your leg!”

Senitiki looked down. He saw that his pant leg was torn and soaked in blood. He fell to the ground, unable to stand anymore. A forklift had driven too close to the stairs where he had been seated and run over one of his legs.

An ambulance whisked Senitiki off to the hospital, and the doctor said sadly that he couldn’t do anything to save the leg. The leg was amputated that morning.

Someone called Senitiki’s wife, and she rushed to the hospital. As she stood beside his bed, Senitiki looked up at her sadly.

“This might be the end of me,” he said.

His wife reached out to hold his hand.

“You have to go to church,” she said, softly.

“OK,” he said. “I’m going to church.”

Senitiki remained in the hospital for a month. During that time, his wife and Adventist church members visited regularly. None of his own friends came to see him. The church members shared the love of God and told him that God loved him. Senitiki was amazed that the church members were so kind and decided that God was with them.

He went to church on the first Sabbath after he was released from the hospital. Soon he was baptized. The pastor was happy to see him in church, but he had an idea.

“There is no Adventist church in your village,” he said. “Let’s open a church in your home.”

Senitiki agreed.

Relatives and neighbors began to attend the Sabbath worship services in his home, and after a while eight people were baptized. The church got so big that it moved out of Senitiki’s house and into its own church building. Senitiki was so happy! Even though he only had one leg, he had planted a church!

Now Senitiki is planning to plant another church in a neighboring village. He is working with several church members to hold evangelistic meetings in the village.

He said that he is thankful God for the terrible work accident that cost him his leg.

“If I hadn’t had the accident, I don’t think that I would have become an Adventist,” he said. “I love this church! I love to take the gospel to the villages.”

By Andrew McChesney

### Story Tips

- Find Fiji on the map.
- Pronounce Senitiki as: sen-e-TIKI.
- Watch a video of Senitiki at the link: [bit.ly/Senitiki-Roqara](https://bit.ly/Senitiki-Roqara).
- Find photos for this story at the link: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).

## **Standing With God**

**Grace Teao, 11**

**New Zealand**

**August 17**

Ten-year-old Grace liked playing tag with her friends in a big field across the street from her home on the outskirts of New Zealand's capital, Auckland.

She liked running back and forth, laughing, tripping, playing.

One day she suddenly she felt a pain in left leg as she ran around the field. Her leg hurt! Grace stopped and rubbed her leg. It felt like she had a cramp in her calf.

The pain remained for the rest of the day and then the next day. Grace tried to ignore it, but the pain moved up her leg.

Teacher noticed that Grace was limping at South Auckland Seventh-day Adventist Primary School.

"Are you OK?" Teacher asked.

"Yeah, I'm fine," Grace replied.

Grace's friends noticed the limp. Mother noticed, too. Everyone asked Grace if she was all right. "I'm fine, I'm fine," Grace said. She wasn't fine, but she kept hoping that the pain would go away.

A month passed, and Grace couldn't bear the pain any longer. She told Mother.

Mother looked worried. "It might be the same thing as your brothers," she said.

Grace had two older brothers with SUFE, a condition of the hip joint that requires an operation.

Grace didn't want an operation. "I don't think I have that," she said.

Mother didn't do anything, and Grace kept limping. Several days passed, and Mother abruptly told Grace, "We have to go to the doctor."

Grace was scared, but Mother assured her that everything would be all right. Before leaving the house, Mother prayed, "Please help Grace, and be with us if she needs to go to surgery."

At the doctor's office, Grace lay down for some tests. The doctor asked her to raise her leg and move it back and forth. It hurt to move her leg.

The doctor looked serious. “You have to get an X-ray at the hospital,” he said.

Mother prayed in the car.

After the X-ray, Grace waited nervously. She told herself that the leg pain wasn’t a big deal and that she would go home soon.

After an hour, the nurse came out and told Grace that she had to be admitted to the hospital immediately for surgery. Grace was frightened and began to cry.

Mother comforted her. “God will be with us,” she said. Grace stopped crying.

Grace underwent surgery the next day. While she was sleeping, the doctor put some pins in her hip to make it stable. She woke up, feeling dizzy, and a nurse gave her an ice cube to suck on. Then she saw Mother waiting for her in the room.

“Are you OK?” Mother asked.

“I didn’t feel a thing,” Grace said.

With a big smile, Mother thanked God for the successful operation.

Grace left the hospital two days later and, after using crutches for a few weeks, was walking normally. She was happy that the pain was finally gone.

For five months. Then Grace noticed a pain in her other leg. She had to undergo a second operation at the hospital, but this time she wasn’t scared. She knew God was with her.

“We prayed before the surgery,” Grace said. “But I knew God would take care of everything. No problem.”

God did take care of everything. A few weeks after the operation, Grace was walking on crutches and looking forward to playing tag again soon in the big field across from her home.

Grace has advice for other children who are scared.

“Don’t be afraid,” she said. “Know that God is always with you.”

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago that made it possible for Grace and everyone in New Zealand to watch Adventist TV programs for free on Hope Channel.

By Andrew McChesney

### Story Tips

- Find New Zealand on the map.
- Watch a video of Grace at the link: [bit.ly/Grace-Teao](https://bit.ly/Grace-Teao).
- Find photos for this story at the link: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).



## **Jaxon's Journey**

**Jaxon Stacey, 14**

**Australia**

**August 24**

Thirteen-year-old Jaxon Stacey gathered with his parents and three younger brothers in the living room for "Family Night."

It actually wasn't nighttime. It was only 4 p.m., and the boys had just returned home for school. The family met for 20 minutes every day to discuss life.

At this particular "Family Night," Mother wanted to talk about family plans to travel far from their home in Australia for a vacation in Cambodia. Jaxon was looking forward to the trip. He hoped to see old Buddhist temples and eat fresh pineapples and papaya. But Mother didn't want to talk about that. She wanted to change the vacation plans. "Today, I was talking with a woman from church, and she suggested that we build a school classroom during our vacation," she said.

Mother explained that the 10th-grade students at the school needed a classroom, and she wanted her family to team up with two other Australian families to construct the building. The project would take a week of their three-week vacation.

Jaxon thought to himself, "I'm not sure what this is, but I'll give it a shot." Out loud, he asked, "What would I do?"

Mother said each member of the family would have a task. Jaxon's brothers would hammer nails and paint walls. Jaxon and Father would saw wood for the walls.

Mother also said Jaxon and his three brothers each needed to raise 1,000 Australian dollars (U.S.\$740) to pay for project expenses. Jaxon and his brothers got to work. For several Sundays, they shut themselves in the kitchen, baking cottage cheese patties, quiche, muffins, and puff pastry stuffed with vegetarian sausages. They advertised on Facebook, and church members bought the food.

Soon Jaxon and his brothers had raised the money, and they flew to Cambodia. The family spent the first week exploring the ancient Angkor temple in Siem Reap and eating fresh pineapples and papaya.

Then the family got into a minibus and rode several hours to the school. There, they and the two other families began to work on the classroom.

Jaxon quickly noticed something different. Every morning, the group prayed for God to keep them safe and to help them finish the project. During the day, the group paused from work to pray for more help and protection. Every evening, prayers of thanksgiving were given to God for safety and the work that had been accomplished. The group also prayed before every meal.

Jaxon had never prayed so much in his life. At home, he didn't pray when he got up in the morning or when he went to bed at night. He often forgot to pray at meals. He liked the many prayers in Cambodia.

Jaxon was exhausted after work every day. He took a nap, woke up for supper, and then went straight back to bed.

When the week ended, the classroom was finished. Jaxon was delighted! God had answered their prayers — they finished on time, and no one was injured.

"When we finished, we felt like we had achieved something very big," Jaxon said.

Jaxon is now 14 and back at Avondale School in Australia, studying in the eighth grade. But something is different. When he wakes up in the morning, he thanks God for the new day and asks for protection. At school, he pauses to ask God for help with his schoolwork. When he lies down to sleep, he thanks God for the good day and asks for a good night's rest. He also prays before every meal.

Jaxon said the Cambodia trip taught him about the importance of prayer.

"I pray now more than I used to," he said. "I see that God is answering my prayers. I asked for help before a math exam, and I did pretty good!"

By Andrew McChesney

### Story Tips

- Find Jaxon's home near Sydney, Australia, on the map. Show the plane route to Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- Ask whether the children have gone on a trip (mission or otherwise). What did they learn about God?
- Watch a video of Jaxon at the link: [bit.ly/Jaxon-Stacey](https://bit.ly/Jaxon-Stacey).
- Find photos for this story at the link: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).

## **Miracle Milly**

**Lara Hawkins, 14**

**Australia**

**August 31**

Sunday morning started quietly at the Hawkins home in Cooranbong, Australia.

After breakfast, 14-year-old Lara and her little brother, Jack, said goodbye to their new puppy, Milly. Then Father drove them to the sports field at Avondale School, the Seventh-day Adventist school where both children studied. Mother was away on a business trip in Fiji.

Jack played soccer with friends for an hour. Lara and Father shot hoops on the basketball court.

Afterward, as the car neared their house, Lara saw smoke rising from the roof. People were gathered on the front lawn, talking excitedly and pointing.

Lara and Jack jumped from the car and raced to the back door. It was locked.

"Where's Milly?" Lara cried. "Hurry! Open the door!"

Father opened the door. Thick black smoke filled the room. Lara frantically called for Milly, but the puppy, who was usually obedient, didn't come.

"Where is she?" Laura said. "Milly! Milly!"

Father tried to enter the house to look for the puppy, but the smoke drove him out.

The children, tears streaming down their cheeks, ran to the front lawn. Lara said to Jack, "We can't do anything about the fire. Let's just kneel down and pray."

Oblivious to the crowd, the children knelt on the lawn.

"Dear God," Lara said. "You know what is happening, and You know how much we love little Milly. You said You look after the sparrows, so please look after Milly. Please help the firefighters find Milly."

Soon eight fire trucks, lights flashing and sirens wailing, raced up to the house. As the firefighters unwound their hoses, Father pleaded for them to look for Milly.

The firefighters couldn't find the puppy.

Lara and Jack, still crying, crossed the street to the neighbor's house to wait.

After a short time, Father's voice rang out. "Lara, Jack, come out!" he shouted.



Lara and Jack ran out of the house. Father held Milly in his arms. Her white fur was black with soot, but her tail was wagging happily. Sad tears turned to happy tears, and Lara and Jack threw their arms around the puppy and each other.

“Thank You, God! Thank You, God!” the children exclaimed.

Firefighters called Milly a miracle. After putting out the fire, they had found Milly hiding under a bed. Somehow a pocket of air had formed under the bed, and Milly had been able to breathe the air instead of the poisonous smoke.

But that wasn’t the only miracle. The neighbors also helped saved Milly’s life. They had called the fire station while the family was still at the sports field and stuck a water hose into the window of the room where the fire had broken out. The water flowing into the room had contained the fire and prevented the house from exploding in a ball of flames.

Firefighters later said the fire had been ignited by a short circuit.

The fire changed Lara’s mind about God. Several months before the fire, she had begun to pray for God to show Himself to her. She had heard stories in church about God performing miracles and wondered why she had never seen God in her life. The Bible promises that God will show Himself to those who seek Him. 1 Chronicles 28:9 says, “If you seek Him, He will be found by you.”

Now Lara knows God is real.

“The fire was a big game changer,” she said. “Before that, I was questioning God. I wanted a real God moment like the stories in church. I was praying silently for God to show Himself to me, too.”

Lara has given her heart to Jesus and plans to be baptized exactly one year after the fire miracle.

Milly, meanwhile, is back to her normal happy self. Only she has a new nickname. Lara calls her “Miracle Milly.”

By Andrew McChesney

### Story Tips

- Find Cooranbong, Australia, on the map. The town is near Sydney.
- Ask how the children know that God is real. Have they, like Lara, experienced an answered prayer?
- Watch a video of Lara at the link: [bit.ly/Lara-Hawkins](https://bit.ly/Lara-Hawkins).
- Find photos for this story at the link: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).

## **Extra-Easy Exams**

**Mitlyn Todonga, 15**

**Solomon Islands**

**September 7**

Fourteen-year-old Mitlyn Todonga felt nervous because she had to take three big exams that would decide where she would study for the seventh grade.

If she got low or average marks on the exams, she would have to stay in her village in the Solomon Islands and attend public school. But if she got high marks, she could study at one of her country's 10 national schools. One of those 10 schools was Betikama Adventist College in the nation's capital, Honiara.

No one in Mitlyn's home was Adventist. But she had attended the local Townend Primary Adventist School since first grade, and she had gone to church many times with a school friend, Janet. Now she wanted more than anything in the world to study at Betikama Adventist College, located three hours by boat from her village.

Mitlyn decided to pray for God to help her pass the exams, and she asked her parents to join her.

Father wasn't sure that prayers would help. Mitlyn had to earn the highest marks to go to the Adventist school. Many other sixth graders across the country also wanted to enter the school. To many, qualifying for the school was like winning a million dollars.

For Father, the school also was expensive. He didn't have much money. But Father decided to pray anyway.

"Dear God, please help Mitlyn pass the exams so she can attend seventh grade at the Adventist school," he prayed.

The day of the first exam arrived. The subject was English. Mitlyn prayed and prepared to take the exam. As she started, she was amazed. She found that the exam very easy!

Then Mitlyn had to take the second exam. The topic was mathematics. Mitlyn prayed and, to her surprise, found that the exam was very easy!

At home that evening, her parents asked her about the first two exams.

"They were rather easy," Mitlyn said, happily.

"God has answered your prayers," Mother said.

The next day, Mitlyn had to take the last exam. It was the most difficult and covered three subjects: science, health, and social studies. Mitlyn prayed — and the exam was very easy!

That evening, Mother asked, “Did you finish your exam?”

“Yes,” she said.

“Did you find it very easy?” Father asked.

“Yes!” Mitlyn exclaimed.

Father, Mother, and daughter bowed their heads and thanked God.

“Do you think that you will pass all three exams with high marks?” Mother asked.

“Yes!” Mitlyn said with a big smile.

While waiting for the exam results, Mitlyn went some distance away for a vacation. While there, Father called her on the phone.

“The exam results are out,” he said.

“What kind of scores did I get?” Mitlyn asked.

“You passed to get into Betikama Adventist College!” Father said.

Mitlyn was overjoyed to hear the news! Father suggested that Mitlyn cut her vacation short to prepare for the move.

That evening, Mitlyn returned home and joined her family in thanking God for His goodness. Father especially thanked God for hearing their prayers, and he promised to work extra hard to pay for the school tuition.

“God has a plan for you,” Father told Mitlyn. “He passed you so you could do something that I thought was impossible — go to the Adventist school.”

Mitlyn is now 15 years old and studying in the seventh grade. She has been taking Bible studies and plans to be baptized soon.

In two years, when she finishes ninth grade, she will have to take another set of big exams. If she gets high marks, she can stay at the Adventist school. If she gets low or average marks, she will have to return to her home village, Mbalelea, in Malaita Province to attend public school for 10th grade.

But Mitlyn isn’t worried.

“I’m not worried about the exams because I know God will help me,” she said.

By Andrew McChesney

## Story Tips

- Find Solomon Islands on the map. Point out Malaita Province, where Mitlyn lives, and show the boat route that she took to the nation's capital, Honiara, where Betikama Adventist College is located.
- Mitlyn is pronounced: mit-LINN.
- Ask who planted the first seed in Mitlyn's heart that led to her baptism. Mitlyn first went to church seven years ago, as a first grader, because her friend Janet invited her. Ask the children how they can plant seeds.
- Read more about Mitlyn's adventure in the youth and adult Mission magazine or at the link: [bit.ly/bedding-and-more](http://bit.ly/bedding-and-more).
- Watch a video of Mitlyn at the link: [bit.ly/Mitlyn-Todonga](http://bit.ly/Mitlyn-Todonga).
- Find photos for this story at the link: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq).

## **Little Church Grower**

**Joseph Samani, 13**

## **Solomon Islands**

**September 14**

Ten-year-old Joe Samani watched movies and played video games with friends at his home in the Solomon Islands. But he wasn't happy.

Joe's family was poor, and life was rough in their neighborhood in the South Pacific country's capital, Honiara. Neighbors sold illegal drugs, and children stole and got into trouble with the police.

Joe's house was a popular place for neighborhood boys to hang out every evening. Joe noticed that one friend didn't talk like the other boys, and he participated in a Pathfinders club every Sabbath. Joe decided to follow him to the Seventh-day Adventist church to learn more. Soon he joined the Pathfinders and went to church every Sabbath.

After a while, Joe and the other Pathfinders were invited to fly to Australia to attend a camporee for Pathfinders from all over South Pacific Division. Joe really wanted to go, and Mother worked hard to save the money for the plane ticket.

Joe loved the camporee.

Back at home, when the neighborhood boys came over that evening, he told stories from the camporee. The boys loved the stories, and they asked to hear more the next evening.

Then Joe thought to himself, "These boys like to hear about Pathfinders. Why not also tell them about Jesus?" He kept telling Pathfinder stories but began to include Bible stories, too.

The number of boys coming to Joe's home grew as one boy told another about the stories. Soon 30 to 40 boys were meeting every evening. Although Mother didn't have much money, she began to cook food for the children to eat after story time. She somehow always had enough food for everyone.

The boys began to ask Joe if they could join Pathfinders, and four went with Joe to church the next Sabbath. More boys went the following week.

The Pathfinder leader couldn't understand where all the boys were coming from.

"Joe, why are so many kids from your neighborhood coming to Pathfinder club?" he asked. "What did you do?"

"I didn't do anything," Joe replied. "I just tell stories about what we did in Australia, and we have evening devotions. That's all."

The leader asked to visit Joe's home to see the evening meetings for himself.

The Pathfinder leader was amazed at what he saw. Afterward, he said to Mother, "This neighborhood would be a good place to open a church."

He noticed that Joe's house had a large unfinished living room that no one used and asked whether it could be used for Sabbath worship services. Mother agreed.

Several dozen neighborhood children came to Joe's house for church the next Sabbath. All the Pathfinder leaders and their families came as well, and they brought food for everyone.

Then something happened that made Joe very happy. Mother decided to be baptized. After that, a 20-year-old cousin was baptized, and so were three neighborhood boys who Joe had introduced to Pathfinders.

Today Joe's living room is packed every Sabbath with about 70 people, and plans are under way to open a permanent church in the neighborhood.

Today Joe is 13 years old. He is short and humble in appearance and speech. But no one doubts that God is using him in a powerful way.

"I may be small, but in God's hands I can grow a church," Joe said.

By Andrew McChesney

### Story Tips

- Find Solomon Islands on the map. Point out the nation's capital, Honiara, where Joe lives.
- Ask the children how Joe opened the church and whether they could, too. Joe and his family were hospitable, inviting people over and feeding them. Joe told stories about Pathfinders and from the Bible. Joe invited children to Pathfinders.
- Watch a video of Joe at the link: [bit.ly/Joe-Samani](https://bit.ly/Joe-Samani).
- Find photos for this story at the link: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).

## **Taking a Visitor to Church**

**Andrew Seth, 14**

**Papua New Guinea**

**September 21**

Teacher made a big announcement to the children's Sabbath School class in a church in Wankun, Papua New Guinea.

"Next week, we are going to have visitors day," she said. "I'd like each of you to bring a visitor.

Four-year-old Andrew Seth listened attentively as Teacher spoke. He wondered, "Who am I going to bring to Sabbath School next week?"

Walking home after church, he remembered a friend of his father named Mr. Samuel Gini. Both his father and Mr. Gini worked as teachers at the same school. Andrew thought, "I could ask him to be my visitor on Sabbath. That would be great!"

Early Sunday morning, Andrew went to Mr. Gini's house and knocked on the door. Mr. Gini came out and saw Andrew.

"Hi Andrew," he said. "It is early in the morning. How can I help you?"

"I went to Sabbath School, and my teacher told me that we are having visitors day next Sabbath," Andrew said. "She told us to bring a visitor, and I thought of you. So, I am here to ask you if you can be my visitor on Sabbath."

Mr. Gini, who went to church on Sundays, thought for a moment and replied, "Andrew, I'll think about it."

Seeing Andrew's disappointed face, he quickly added, "It's OK. I'll be your visitor on Sabbath."

Andrew went home and told his parents. Mother was really excited and said, "We'll prepare lunch for Mr. Gini and his wife after the worship service."

Every morning during family worship that week, Andrew prayed for Mr. Gini and his wife.

Sabbath arrived, and Andrew was the first to wake up and get dressed in his church clothes. He had nothing to give to his special visitor, so he picked a flower to present as a gift. Andrew hurried to Mr. Gini's house with the flower. Hiding the flower behind his back, he knocked on the door and called out, "Mr. Gini!"

He heard the door open and saw someone coming out. It wasn't Mr. Gini. It was his wife.

“Andrew, how can I help you?” she said.

“I am here for Mr. Gini,” said Andrew. “I told him that he would be my visitor in Sabbath School class today.”

Mrs. Gini was surprised, and she said, “He didn’t tell me about that. He left for his village yesterday.”

Andrew felt sad. Then a thought sprang into his mind. “Mrs. Gini,” he said. “Since Mr. Gini is not here, would you care to be my visitor today?”

Now Mrs. Gini was very surprised. But she wanted to honor Mr. Gini’s promise.

“Give me a minute,” she said. “I’ll get myself ready and come to church as your special visitor.”

When she came out, Andrew gave her the flower. Then he took her hand and led her to church. After Sabbath School, she stayed for the sermon and went to Andrew’s home for lunch.

After that, Mrs. Gini came to church every Sabbath. She learned that the Bible teaches that the seventh day, Saturday, is the true Sabbath. After a few months of studying the Bible, she was baptized. Mr. Gini joined her afterward and also became a member of the church.

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago that helped build Sabbath School classrooms for children like Andrew — and visitors like Mrs. Gini — in Papua New Guinea.

By Samson Obedi, personal ministries and Sabbath School director, Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission, Papua New Guinea. Andrew is his cousin.

### Story Tips

- Find Papua New Guinea on the map. This story happened in Wankun, a village located about 60 miles (100 kilometers) west of Lae, the country’s second-largest city.
- Know that Andrew is now 14 years old and in the seventh grade. He is the youngest in a family of five children, including three older sisters and a brother.
- Andrew and his family still live in Morobe Province, and his father is a missionary teacher at Ragiampun Adventist Primary School.
- Ask the children who they can invite to Sabbath School and encourage them to bring someone.
- Find photos for this story at the link: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).





## **Thirteenth Sabbath: Getting Rohi Out of Bed**

**Dwight Ope, 14**

**Rohi Goiye, 16**

**Papua New Guinea**

**September 28**

**Narrator:** Dwight and Rohi are best friends in Goroka, Papua New Guinea. They walk home from school together. They play together. They dislike saying goodbye to each other. But Dwight was sad.

**Dwight (speaking to audience):** Rohi was missing out on Pathfinders and interesting Sabbath School lessons every Saturday at my church.

**Narrator:** That night, Dwight decided to pray for Rohi to go with him to church on Sabbath.

**Dwight:** Dear God, please help Rohi to come. Help us to stay good friends. Help us to all go to heaven together.

**Narrator:** At school the next day, Dwight spoke with his friend between classes.

**Dwight (speaking to Rohi):** Come for the Sabbath program, and then we will go to my house for a big lunch.

**Rohi (hesitantly):** OK, I'll come.

**Narrator:** But Rohi was thinking:

**Rohi (to audience, shaking his head):** No, I'm not going to go.

**Narrator:** Rohi was shy about going to church. He didn't have many friends there. On Sabbath, Dwight looked for Rohi at church and didn't see him. On Monday, he saw Rohi at school and invited him to go the next Sabbath.

**Dwight:** Come for the Sabbath program, and then we will go for a large lunch together.

**Rohi:** OK, I'll come.

**Narrator:** Rohi felt bad for not keeping his promise, and he didn't want to disappoint his friend again. He thought:

**Rohi:** I'll probably go — if I can wake up early.

**Narrator:** Dwight prayed for Rohi every night that week.

**Dwight:** Dear God, please help Rohi to come. Help us to stay good friends. Help us to all go to heaven together.

**Narrator:** On Sabbath morning, Rohi woke up at 8 a.m. Sabbath School began at 8:30 a.m., so he had only 30 minutes to get ready and run to church. Rohi sprang out of bed, dressed, and rushed to church. But when he arrived, he was too scared to go inside. He stood outside the building, wondering what to do. A school classmate saw him and led him to the Sabbath School class. Dwight was thrilled to see his best friend in the class and jumped up and down with joy! God had answered his prayers. Rohi liked the Sabbath School class. The boys and girls talked about social media.

**Teacher:** The time spent on Facebook and Instagram could be better spent reading the Bible.

**Narrator:** Rohi realized that the teacher was right. He thought:

**Rohi:** Social media takes up most of my time, and I could be doing better things.

**Narrator:** After Sabbath School, Dwight invited Rohi to sit with him and his family for the sermon. Rohi found the worship service a little confusing. His own church didn't have a children's story before the sermon or a Pathfinders club afterward. But he liked them both. He also enjoyed lunch at Dwight's house.

The next Friday night, Rohi set his alarm clock for 6 a.m. Normally, he didn't set the alarm for Saturday morning, but he didn't want to be late for Sabbath School.

When the alarm went off, he promptly jumped out of bed.

His mother was surprised and asked:

**Mother:** Where are you going?

**Rohi:** I'm going to church.

**Narrator:** Rohi was waiting outside the church building when Dwight arrived for Sabbath School. Dwight was so happy to see his friend!

A year has passed. Now Rohi sets the alarm for 6 a.m. every Sabbath. He also is a Pathfinder and takes parts in other church activities. He likes his new life.

**Rohi:** I didn't used to be busy on weekends, and I stayed at home. But now I come to church and am very busy. It's fun!

**Narrator:** Dwight still prays for Rohi every night.

**Dwight:** I hope Rohi will be baptized. God answered my first prayer and brought him to church. I'm sure God will answer this prayer, too.

**Narrator:** Three years ago, part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped construct children's Sabbath School classrooms in Papua New Guinea and other countries in the South Pacific Division so children like Rohi could learn about Jesus. Today we are taking another Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for the South Pacific Division. The money will help "Save 10,000 Toes," a campaign to prevent toe amputations through health services in Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Kiribati, and Tonga. The money also will be used to construct Hope TV and radio studios in Tonga and produce a children's animated series about Daniel in Australia. Thank you for your generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. □

[Offering]

By Andrew McChesney

### Story Tips

- Five children are needed for this skit to play the roles of a narrator, two boys, a teacher, and a school classmate. The children don't need to memorize the script, but they should know it well enough that they don't have to read every word. The scenes can be acted out as the narrator reads.
- Pronounce Rohi as: row-HEE.
- Show Goroka, Papua New Guinea, on the screen when the narrator introduces to the story.
- Optional story features: Watch a video of Dwight and Rohi at the link: [bit.ly/Rohi-Goiye](http://bit.ly/Rohi-Goiye), and show photos of the children in this story from the link: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq). Also, encourage audience members to follow Dwight's lead by inviting a friend to Sabbath School next week. Dwight said, "I decided to invite Rohi because I saw that he was missing out on Pathfinders and the Sabbath School class. I wanted him to be part of what we were discussing in Sabbath School."

**--Box--**

Before Thirteenth Sabbath:

- Send home a note to remind parents of the program and to encourage the children to bring their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on September 28.
- Remind everyone that their mission offerings are gifts to spread God's Word around the world, and that one-fourth of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go directly to help four projects in the South Pacific Division. The projects are listed on page 3 and on the back cover.

**--End box--**

**—Box—**

### Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering next quarter will help the East-Central Africa Division to construct:

- Construct classrooms at Goma Adventist University, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Build three auditoriums at Philip Lemon Adventist University, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Expand health services at Kinshasa Adventist Clinic, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Open field headquarters, Wau, South Sudan
- Establish Juba Adventist Secondary School, South Sudan
- Construct Kisumu Adventist Hospital, Kenya
- Build four children's Sabbath School classrooms, Ethiopia

—End Box—

## Leader's Resources

**Be sure to download your free Mission Spotlight video**, featuring video reports from around the South Pacific Division and beyond. Download or stream from the Adventist Mission website at [bit.ly/missionspotlight](http://bit.ly/missionspotlight). **A printable mission bank image**, which the children can color, can be downloaded at [bit.ly/bank-coloring-page](http://bit.ly/bank-coloring-page).

## Online Information

Following are sources of information that may be helpful in preparing for the mission segment of Sabbath School. For more information on the cultures and history of the countries featured in this quarterly, visit your local library or a travel agency, or visit the websites listed below.

Australia: government website	<a href="http://australia.gov.au">australia.gov.au</a>
Information Planet	<a href="http://bit.ly/InfoPlanAust">bit.ly/InfoPlanAust</a>
Fiji: government website	<a href="http://fiji.gov.fj">fiji.gov.fj</a>
Nations Online	<a href="http://bit.ly/NatOnFiji">bit.ly/NatOnFiji</a>
New Caledonia: government website	<a href="http://gouv.nc">gouv.nc</a>
CIA World Factbook <a href="http://bit.ly/CIANewCal">http://bit.ly/CIANewCal</a>	
New Zealand: government website	<a href="http://govt.nz">govt.nz</a>
New Zealand Tourism	<a href="http://bit.ly/AboutNZ">bit.ly/AboutNZ</a>
Papua New Guinea: government website	<a href="http://bit.ly/GovPNG">bit.ly/GovPNG</a>
Lonely Planet	<a href="http://bit.ly/LonelyPNG">bit.ly/LonelyPNG</a>
Solomon Islands: government website	<a href="http://bit.ly/SIGov">bit.ly/SIGov</a>
World Travel Guide	<a href="http://bit.ly/WTGSolIsl">bit.ly/WTGSolIsl</a>

### **Seventh-day Adventist**

South Pacific Division	<a href="http://spd.adventist.org">spd.adventist.org</a>
Australian Union Conference	<a href="http://adventist.org.au">adventist.org.au</a>
New Zealand Pacific Union Conference	<a href="http://bit.ly/NZPUnionC">bit.ly/NZPUnionC</a>
Papua New Guinea Union Mission	<a href="http://adventist.org.pg">adventist.org.pg</a>
Trans Pacific Union Mission	<a href="http://bit.ly/TPUMSDA">bit.ly/TPUMSDA</a>

An offering goal device will help focus attention on world missions and increase weekly mission giving. Determine a goal for your class's weekly mission offering. Multiply it by 14, allowing a double goal for the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

Remind your Sabbath School members that their regular weekly mission offerings will help the missionary work of the world church and that one quarter of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go directly to the projects in the South Pacific Division. On the twelfth Sabbath, report on mission giving during the quarter. Encourage members to double or triple their normal mission giving on Thirteenth Sabbath. Count the offering and record the amount given at the end of Sabbath School.

**[If Space Permits use the following:]**

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## Masthead

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## **SPD Sidebar Material**

### **Flag Coloring Instructions**

#### **Australia**

The main background is dark blue. The stars are white.

In the top left corner is the Union Jack. The big middle cross is red and the cross around it is white. The big X is white, with red stripes in the middle of it. The rest is the same dark blue as the main part of the flag.

#### **Fiji**

The main background is light blue. In the top left corner is the Union Jack. The big middle cross is red and the cross around it is white. The big X is white, with red stripes in the middle of it. The rest is dark blue.

On the right of the flag is a shield. The top section and the cross in the middle are red. The lion is yellow. The sections in each quarter of the cross are white. The dove is white, and the bananas are yellow. The trunk of the tree is brown. The palm fronds, sugar cane, banana stalks, and leaves in the beak of the dove are all green.

#### **New Caledonia**

New Caledonia has two flags.

#### **Tricolore**

The left third is dark blue, the middle third is white, and the right third is red.

### Kanak

The top third is dark blue. The middle third is red. The bottom third is green. The circle is yellow and the figure in the circle is black.

### **New Zealand**

The main background is dark blue. The stars are red. In the top left corner is the Union Jack. The big middle cross is red and the cross around it is white. The big X is white, with red stripes in the middle of it. The rest is the same dark blue as the main part of the flag.

### **Papua New Guinea**

The top right triangle is red with a yellow bird. The bottom left triangle is black with white stars.

### **Solomon Islands**

The top left triangle is dark blue with white stars. The bottom right triangle is green. The diagonal stripe in the middle is yellow.

## **Games**

### **Australia**

#### **Weme**

The Walbiri people of central Australia played a stone-bowling game. One player threw a stone, which then was used as a target by the second player. Players alternated turns with each aiming at the other's stone. The game is named "weme" after a word from the Eastern Arrernte language of central Australia that refers to "throwing something at something else and hitting it."

The game can be played alone, one player against another player, or one pair of players against another pair.

One player starts the game by rolling their ball toward the line marked on the ground 5-10 yards (meters) away, depending on age. If the ball is rolled beyond this line, then the other player scores a point.

If the first player's ball stops before the line, the second player rolls their ball to try to hit the first ball. If the ball is hit, the second player scores a point.

Both players then collect their balls and the game is restarted from the other end.

Players alternate turns. The second player now has the first turn.

If the game is played in pairs one player from each pair stays at each end. Teams alternate turns.

One point is scored for each hit. The first player or team to reach 11 points is the winner. Play continues until the game is decided.

## Recipes

### Fijian Honey Cake

READY IN: 1hr 10mins      SERVES: 10

YIELD: 1 loaf

#### INGREDIENTS

1 1/4 cups (140 g) all-purpose flour  
1/2 cup (113 g) sugar  
1/2 cup (113 g) sour cream  
1/2 cup (113 g) honey  
1 egg  
1 tablespoon (15 ml) oil  
1/2 teaspoon (3 g) baking soda  
1/8 teaspoon (1 g) ground nutmeg  
1/8 teaspoon (1 g) ground allspice (or ground cloves)  
1/4 teaspoon (1.5 g) ground ginger  
1/2 teaspoon (3 g) ground cinnamon  
2 tablespoons (15 g) sliced almonds

#### DIRECTIONS

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit (177 degrees Celsius).

Coat a 9" x 5" x 3" (23 x 13 x 6 cm) loaf pan with butter or nonstick cooking spray.

In a large bowl, combine all the ingredients except the almonds and beat until well blended.

Pour the batter into the loaf pan and sprinkle with the almonds.

Bake for 45 to 55 minutes or until a wooden toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

Allow to cool for 10 minutes then remove from the pan to a wire rack to cool completely.

## **Songs**

### **New Zealand**

#### **Tena Koe**

Tena koe – hello to one.

Tena korua – hello to two.

Tena koutou – hello to all.

Haere mai everyone.

Welcome everyone!

Repeat

A downloadable lyric sheet is available at <http://bit.ly/TenaKoe>, and a video with the tune and lyrics can be found at <http://bit.ly/YTTenaKoe>.

## **Fast Facts and Mission Posts**

### **Australia**

1. Australia has 429 churches and 107 companies. With a membership of 61,338 and a population of 24,487,000, there is one Adventist for every 399 people.
2. The Australian Union Conference is comprised of the whole of Australia, as well as Tasmania.
3. Australia has 27 Adventist high schools.
4. Seventh-day Adventist teachings were first preached in Australia by Alexander Dickson, of Melbourne, Australia. While serving as a missionary in Africa, he encountered another missionary, Hannah More, who told him about what she had learned of Adventists when visiting New England in 1861.
5. The name Australia comes from the Latin “Terra Australia Incognita,” which means Unknown Southern Land.
6. Australia is home to a variety of unique animals, including the koala, kangaroo, emu, kookaburra, and platypus.
7. Although they usually keep to themselves, there are a range of dangerous snakes in Australia, such as the Brown Snake, Tiger Snake, and Taipan.
8. Australia has more than 750 reptile species, more than any other country in the world.
9. Despite being a massive continent, 90 percent of Australia's population live on the coast. The country's interior, which covers two thirds of the country, consists of mostly desert, which is referred to as “the outback.”
10. The Great Barrier Reef in eastern Australia is the biggest coral reef in the world and is regarded as the world's largest living organism. The reef consists of more than 3,000 individual reefs in which live more than 350 species of corals and more than 1,500 species of fish. It is often listed as one of the Seven Wonders of the Natural World.
11. Aborigines are Australia's first, or indigenous, people. They make up 2 percent of Australia's population today. Some aboriginal people still live in the area around Ayres Rock, a huge rock formation in the center of the continent. They are highly skilled in arts and crafts and share with visitors their vast knowledge about the land and the environment.
12. The longest fence in the world is in Australia, and it is 3,436 miles (5,530 kilometers) in length. It is called the “dingo fence.”

## Fiji

1. Fiji has 166 churches, 101 companies, and 26,487 members. In a population of 878,000, there is one Adventist for each 33 people.
2. The Fiji Mission is part of the Trans Pacific Union Mission, along with American Samoa, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.
3. There are two schools in Fiji: Navesau Adventist High School and Suva Adventist College.
4. The first Adventist missionary to arrive in Fiji was John I. Tay, in 1891, on the mission vessel Pitcairn. After a few months he became ill and died. The work was taken up again in 1895, when J.M. Cole from the United States began work in Levuka, then the capital of the islands. The same year, the islands were organized as a mission.
5. The capital and largest city in Fiji is Suva on the island of Viti Levu.
6. There are 322 islands in Fiji and more than 500 small islets. About 110 of these islands are inhabited, although 87 percent of the population lives on the two biggest islands, Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. The islands are spread over 75,000 square miles (194,000 square kilometers) of which just 10 percent is land.
7. Fijian food is diverse and greatly influenced by Indian cuisine and spices, along with traditional local tropical fruits, vegetables, fish, and wild pigs.
8. The first word in the native Fijian language you'll need to learn is "Bula," which means "hello," because you will hear it everywhere, although most people in Fiji speak English as well.
9. Fijian girls learn how to craft pottery as well as weave baskets and mats, while boys learn to carve kava bowls, war clubs, spears, and the always popular wooden forks that are sold to tourists as relics of Fiji's cannibal past.
10. Village groups own more than 80 percent of Fiji's land, which is called Native Land, and use it for their village site and as a nature reserve. They have a chief as their leader, and each has a community center. Tourists may visit but must bring a gift of kava (the national drink) with them and present it to the chief for the welcoming ceremony, known as the "sevu sevu."
11. Visitors are welcomed with white talc powder on their faces and leis of flowers and leaves from the villagers. Ladies should wear modest clothing, like a traditional Fijian sarong (a "sulu") to show respect for the residents and chief.
12. Fijian women play a game on New Year's Eve called "veicaqemoli" (kick the orange). Played by two teams, the winning team must give gifts of new garments to the members of the losing team, so there's really more incentive to lose than to win.
13. The Meke is a celebration of culture through traditional storytelling and dancing using songs that is performed at Fijian festivals.
14. Traditional Fiji meals include relishes, starches and a beverage. The starches include yams, taro, sweet potatoes, and manioc. The relishes include meat, fish, seafood, and leafy veggies. Water is the typical beverage of choice, although hot tea with lemon leaves is also served.
15. The traditional cooking method in Fiji is called "lovo." Food is wrapped in palm fronds and banana leaves and roasted in an earthen pit lined with extremely hot stones. Meats like pork, chicken, or fish are placed in first on the bottom. Root crops like cassava, wild yams, and taro cover the meat, then the pit is filled with dirt and left to cook for three hours.



16. Many islanders raise their eyebrows as a nonverbal way of saying “yes.”
17. One Fijian superstition says that coconuts have eyes, and they watch for certain people on which they want to fall from the tree. So, if a coconut falls on you, you can expect bad luck for several days, because it picked you specifically to fall upon.
18. Fiji has three official languages, Fiji, English, and Fiji Hindi.

1. New Caledonia has six churches and four companies, with a membership of 1,029. In a population of 283,000, that is 275 people per church member.
2. New Caledonia is part of the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference, along with the Cook Islands, French Polynesia, New Zealand, Pitcairn Island, and Wallis and Futuna Islands.
3. The New Caledonia Mission comprises Isle of Pines, Loyalty Island, New Caledonia, and Wallis and Futuna Islands.
4. The first Seventh-day Adventist missionaries to work in the island group were Captain G.F. Jones and his wife, who sailed from Sydney for Noumea, New Caledonia, on Oct. 23, 1925. The islands were some of the most difficult areas in the South Pacific.
5. Kanaks are all officially Catholic or Protestant but maintain a belief in an ancestral presence in certain totems (animals, plants, minerals, and atmospheric phenomena).
6. The first European to sight New Caledonia was British explorer Captain James Cook, on Sept. 4, 1774, during his second voyage. He named it “New Caledonia” because the northeast of the island reminded him of Scotland.
7. Situated 700 miles (1,125 kilometers) east of Australia, New Caledonia is an archipelago, or cluster of islands in the South Pacific Ocean. The main island is 250 miles (400 kilometers) long and 30 miles (50 kilometers) wide.
8. The population is about 45 percent Melanesian (Kanak) and 35 percent European (mostly French), with Polynesians in the outlying islands.
9. French is the official language, although several Melanesian and Polynesian dialects are also spoken.
10. Kanaks traditionally eat yams, taros, bananas, and sweet potatoes, although recently rice has tended to replace yams and taro, and frozen food, beef, and mutton substitute for wild pork, deer, fish, and bats.
11. Sea cow, turtle, and fish remain ceremonial dishes, along with “bougna,” a dish of steamed yams and meat cooked under hot stones.
12. New Caledonia has a sub-tropical climate year-round, with maximum temperatures averaging 77 to 86 degrees Fahrenheit (25 to 30 degrees Celsius) in the warm season from September to March, and 68 to 73 F (20 to 23 C) in the cooler months from April to August.
13. The Festival of the Yam, in March, marks the beginning of the yam harvest, and is the most important event in the Kanak calendar. When the yams are declared ready by the elders, they are pulled up and presented to the older clansmen and the chief, signaling the beginning of the harvest. The yams are blessed the following day by the priest, then distributed among the villagers.
14. Bastille Day, held on July 14 each year, is a national holiday in France and New Caledonia, marked with a military parade, fireworks, music, and dancing.
15. Although there are almost 25,000 species of orchid in the world, only around a hundred of them are “vanillas.” And of these, only three are cultivated for their aromatic pods: *Vanilla pompona*, *Vanilla tahitensis*, and *Vanilla planifolia*, which is found in New Caledonia.
16. Apart from some aspects of the tribal way of life, including “customary tradition,” local customs are very similar to those found in France and any French overseas territory.

17. The New Caledonian crow (*Corvus moneduloides*) sometimes captures grubs in nooks or crevices by poking a twig at the grub to agitate it into biting the twig, which the crow then withdraws with the grub still attached.
18. The name “kanak” comes from the Hawaiian word “kanaka,” which means “man.”
19. The main export of New Caledonia is nickel. The country has 25 percent of nickel reserves in the world.
20. New Caledonia's marine waters contain the second-longest double barrier reef in the world, which reaches a length of 932 miles (1,500 kilometers).
21. The official name of New Caledonia is Nouvelle-Calédonie.
22. Nouméa, the capital created by early French colonists, is the only large city.
23. Valued traits among children include the ability to defend oneself and face challenges, as well as traditional knowledge such as clan history, medicinal plants, and political relationships between groups.

## New Zealand – 12

1. New Zealand Pacific Union Conference has 83 churches, 26 companies, and 13,167 members. In a population of 4,792,000, there is one church member for every 364 people.
2. The New Zealand Pacific Union Conference comprises New Zealand, along with the Cook Islands, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Pitcairn Island, and Wallis and Futuna Islands.
3. As early as 1874, an interest in Seventh-day Adventist teachings was kindled in New Zealand by publications sent from friends or relatives in the U.S.
4. In October 1885, U.S. Adventist minister S.N. Haskell came to Auckland from Australia and lodged in the boardinghouse of Edward Hare who, with his wife, became the first converts in New Zealand. Within four weeks a small group began to observe the seventh-day Sabbath in Auckland.
5. Fifteen percent of New Zealand's population are Māori.
6. Although it is about the size of Japan, New Zealand's population is just over 4 million, making it one of the world's least populated countries.
7. In 1893, New Zealand became the first country to give women the right to vote.
8. Sir Edmund Hillary, the first person to climb Mount Everest in 1953, was a New Zealander.
9. The Māori name for New Zealand is "Aotearoa." It means "the land of the long white cloud."
10. The kea, a bird native to New Zealand, is known for pulling windscreen wipers off cars and eating the strips of rubber from windows.
11. According to the Guinness Book of Records, the longest place name in the world is Taumatawhakatangihangakoauauotamateapokaiwhenuakitanatahu, a hill in Hawkes Bay, New Zealand.
12. New Zealand is home to the giant weta, the heaviest insect in the world. It is heavier than a sparrow and looks like a giant cockroach.

## Papua New Guinea – 12

1. Papua New Guinea has 1,045 churches, 3,182 companies, and a membership of 315,759. In a population of 8,317,000, that's one church member for every 26 people.
2. The Papua New Guinea Union Mission is made up of the Central Papua Conference; and the Bougainville, Eastern Highlands Simbu, Madang Manus, Morobe, New Britain New Ireland, Northern and Milne Bay, Sepik, South West Papua, and Western Highlands Missions.
3. Papua New Guinea has 29 clinics and health centers.
4. Early Adventist work in Papua New Guinea was difficult because the government had divided the Papuan territory between three mission bodies — the Methodists, the Anglicans, and the London Missionary Society — and it was hard for any other missionaries to purchase land or work in these territories.
5. Papua New Guinea occupies the eastern part of the world's second-largest island and is prone to volcanic activity, earthquakes, and tidal waves.
6. With more than 600 islands and 800 indigenous languages, Papua New Guinea is made up of four regions with 20 provinces.
7. About 80 percent of Papua New Guinea's people live in rural areas with almost no modern conveniences.
8. The world's only known poisonous bird, the Hooded Pitohui (*Pitohui dichrous*) is native to Papua New Guinea.
9. There are very few roads, so air travel is very common.
10. Common foods include starchy vegetables (wild sago, breadfruit, yams, taro, sweet potatoes, and rice) complemented by wild greens, several varieties of bananas, and coconuts, mango, and other fruits.
11. Papua New Guinea has three official languages: English, Hiri Motu, and Tok Pisin.
12. The New Guinea Highlands runs the length of New Guinea, and the highest areas receive snowfall — almost unheard of in the tropics.

1. The Solomon Islands have 197 churches, 408 companies, and 52,975 members. With a population of 671,000, there is one church member for every 13 people.
2. The Solomon Islands Mission is part of the Trans Pacific Union Mission, along with American Samoa, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.
3. Pioneer Adventist missionaries to the islands were G.F. Jones and his wife, sent by the mission board of Australasia. Landing on the island of Gizo on May 29, 1914, Jones obtained a local crew for his auxiliary ketch, the Advent Herald, and sailed for Viru on the west coast of New Georgia, where he established headquarters for the mission work and opened a school.
4. Christianity, introduced by missionaries in the 19th and early 20th centuries, is the principal organized religion. The primary denominations are Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist, and Seventh-day Adventist.
5. There are six major islands, Choiseul, Guadalcanal, Malaita, Makira, New Georgia and Santa Isabel and about 992 small islands, atolls, and reefs. The archipelago covers an area of 249,000 square nautical miles while the land area is 10,938 square miles (28,466 square kilometers).
6. In some areas, family homes are made on artificial islands built over shallow shoals in a lagoon by gathering rocks and piling them together to make a “home over the sea.”
7. Traditionally, yams, panas, and taros are the main staples in the Solomon Islands. These are usually eaten with fish and shellfish (by those on the coast) or greens, snails, eels, and opossums (by those inland and in the mountains).
8. It is thought that people have lived in the Solomon Islands since at least 2,000 B.C.
9. Although English is the official language, only 1 percent to 2 percent of the population speaks English. Solomon Islands pijin is the most commonly spoken, and there are more than 80 different local languages plus dialects.
10. A Spanish explorer, Álvaro de Mendaña de Neira, first sighted the islands in 1568. Finding signs of alluvial gold on Guadalcanal, Mendaña believed he had found the source of King Solomon’s wealth, and consequently named the islands “The Islands of Solomon.”
11. The native mammals are small and include opossums, bats, and mice. There are crocodiles in the mangrove swamps, and sea turtles nest on the shores from November to February. There are more than 150 species of birds, including many species of parrot and incubator birds.
12. Melanesians account for about 94.5 percent of the total population. Polynesians make up about 3 percent, and Micronesians account for about 1.2 percent. Europeans and Chinese each account for less than 1 percent.
13. At least 75 percent of the population is tied to subsistence agriculture. The capital sector is dependent on the production of copra, timber, and fish for export.
14. Poor standards of hygiene and inadequate sanitation continue to make malaria and tuberculosis endemic. Adequate sanitation is available to only 60 percent of the entire Solomon Islands population.
15. The concept of money is relatively recent in Solomon Island culture; barter and alternative forms of currency such as shell money are still practiced.
16. Typical food eaten in the Solomons includes fish, chicken, pork, coconut, sweet potatoes, and taro.

17. The conch shell is an instrument used widely across the Pacific, including the Solomons. It is used as a traditional form of trumpet, summoning people to gather and signaling the start of important events. The blowing hole is created by removing the end of the shell or making a hole in the side.
18. Canoe prow ornaments (nguzunguzu) were a standard feature on war canoes, representing mythological spirits who would ward off danger. The figures were painted black and had shell inlay designs based on face-painting designs used by warriors.

## **4º Sábado**

### **Exercitando para Jesus**

Herik Dun Siope, que cresceu em um lar adventista, estava voando alto como esportista nas artes maciais. Ele representou as Ilhas Salomão nos Jogos do Pacífico Sul no Taiti. Em seguida, representou seu país nos Jogos do Pacífico Sul em Fiji. E ganhou medalhas.

Então, começou a trabalhar como desenhista arquitetônico. Casou-se e teve quatro filhos. Raramente lia a Bíblia ou ia à igreja. Finalmente, deixou de praticar atividades físicas e começou a comer muito alimentos processados como peixe frito, batata frita, frango e coca-cola. Onze anos se passaram e Herik ganhou peso até alcançar 105 quilos, muito acima do peso ideal, 65 quilos.

Certo dia, ele começou a sentir dores no pé esquerdo. Com as semanas passando, uma dor dilacerante atingiu a perna. Ele procurou tratamento médico, mas nada ajudou e ele ficou impossibilitado de caminhar. Herik começou a ficar desesperado. Sabia que o sangue não circulava na perna e temeu que pudesse perdê-la. Então, lembrou-se de Deus e orou: “Ajude-me a encontrar o medicamento adequado. Eu fui ao médico, mas ninguém conseguiu resolver o problema.”

Pouco tempo depois de ter feito a oração, um parente idoso apareceu em sua casa, em Honiara, capital das Ilhas Salomão. Disse ter sentido uma forte impressão de que deveria visitá-lo e perguntar porque não conseguia andar. Herik contou sobre a dor e a falta de medicamento. “Tudo bem, eu irei ajudá-lo”, o homem falou. Em seguida, preparou um remédio caseiro e tratou Herik diariamente. Após três semanas,

Herik conseguia ficar em pé, mas ainda não conseguia caminhar. “Você perdeu a força muscular da perna e precisa exercitá-la”, disse.

Herik agradeceu a Deus pela cura e orou: “Deus, quero ser usado por Ti. Quero abençoar outras pessoas. Mostre-me Seu plano para minha vida.” Após a oração, Herik sentiu que precisava perder peso. Ele dormia mal, sentia dor nas costas e perdia o fôlego quando caminhava. Sabia que a dor na perna tinha relação com o excesso de peso. Mas, Mas como diminuí-lo? Ele se lembrou o livro *Conselhos Sobre o Regime Alimentar*, de Ellen White. Lendo-o, ficou impressionado com esta informação: “Como nossos primeiros pais perderam o Éden pelo apetite indulgente, nossa única esperança de o reconquistar é por meio da firme negação do apetite e da paixão” (p. 59).

Herik fez grandes mudanças na dieta. Deixou de usar alimentos processados e, depois de muito esforço, eliminou bebidas com cafeína. Também deixou o açúcar e os laticínios. Adotou o plano dietético original de Deus, baseado em frutas, vegetais, grãos e nozes. Também procurou não comer tarde da noite e não exagerar na quantidade.

Além da alimentação, Herik voltou a exercitar-se, primeiro em caminhadas diárias; depois, aprendeu exercícios aeróbicos que pudesse fazer em casa. Em 12 meses, ele perdeu 40 quilos, e voltou ao peso ideal. Ficou mais saudável e passou a fazer flexões e outros exercícios que não conseguia, mesmo quando praticava artes marciais.

Agora, dois anos depois, Herik tem 46 anos e ministra aulas gratuitas de condicionamento físico a pessoas com excesso de peso em um auditório de propriedade adventista. Mais de 200 pessoas de várias religiões participam das aulas quatro dias por semana. Também realiza seminários nos departamentos de saúde do país e trabalha com empresas privadas. Seus conselhos têm fundamento nos ensinamentos de Ellen White – e ele diz que as pessoas perdem peso e melhoram o estilo de vida.

“Percebi que Deus quer me usar e isso fortaleceu minha vida espiritual”, disse Herik. “Agradeço a Deus pela bênção que Ele me deu, para que possa ser uma bênção para os outros de maneira tão simples.”

Parte da oferta deste trimestre apoiará a “*Save 10.000 Toes*” (Salvando 10.000 pés), um projeto para combater o diabetes nas Ilhas Salomão. “*Save 10.000 Toes*” – que se refere à amputação dos dedos dos diabéticos – começou em dezembro de 2017 e financia o programa comunitário de exercícios de Herik. Agradecemos por suas ofertas missionárias da Escola Sabatina.



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### Sugestões para a história

- Conheça mais sobre Herik na próxima semana.
- Assista ao vídeo sobre Herik no *link*: [bit.ly/Herik-Siope](https://bit.ly/Herik-Siope).
- Encontre fotos desta história no *link*: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).

## 5º sábado

### Inspirado por um funcionário

O diretor executivo de uma construtora nas Ilhas Salomão, chamado Geoff Samuel, mal podia acreditar no que via quando um de seus funcionários perdeu 40 quilos em um ano. Ele olhou a própria barriga e se perguntou: “Será que consigo fazer o mesmo?” Geoff pesava 130 quilos. Por dez anos sofria de hipertensão. Então, percebeu que estava no caminho da destruição.

Geoff estava ciente da mensagem adventista de saúde. Ele havia crescido em um lar adventista e frequentado instituições da igreja. Porém, seu corpo era completamente oposto a seu conhecimento. Como a maioria dos moradores das Ilhas Salomão, incluindo os adventistas, sua refeição mais reforçada era o jantar. Antes das refeições, orava: “Senhor, muito obrigado pela benção deste alimento”, mas nunca pensou em orar: “Senhor, nos dê força para controlar o apetite.”

Certo dia, no início de 2018, Geoff se aproximou de Herik, seu desenhista arquitetônico. “Como você conseguiu perder tanto peso?” perguntou. Herik explicou que seguiu um programa de dieta e exercícios inspirado no livro *Conselhos Sobre o Regime Alimentar*, de Ellen White. “Posso lhe ensinar o que eu fiz. Quando posso começar? Se quiser pode começar hoje”, Herik disse. Sem demorar, eles saíram do escritório da *Solomon Housing Limited* e começaram com exercícios simples de 45 minutos na praia, sob as árvores e outros lugares. Foi um trabalho árduo, enquanto

vários exercícios aumentavam em 20 segundos. “Quando comecei, mal podia completar 20 segundos”, confessou Geoff. “Eu contava e ficava feliz quando conseguia alcançar cinco segundos, e tentava melhorar esse número diariamente”.

Enquanto Geoff progredia, outras pessoas se juntaram a eles. Herik continuou liderando o grupo e Geoff assumiu o papel de coordenador. Hoje, mais de 200 pessoas de várias religiões se reúnem para se exercitar quatro dias por semana no ginásio de propriedade adventista.

Cada treino começa e termina com oração. Uma vez por semana, o tempo é reservado para testemunhos pessoais, e Herik e Geoff enfatizam a importância da dieta, inspirados nas palavras de Ellen White. “Se você se sente bem agora, que tal aplicar mudanças em sua vida espiritual?”, pergunta Herik. “Imagine como você vai sentir se começar a orar todas as manhãs”, Geoff acrescenta.

A frase “Hem waka!” (Funcional!) sempre ressoa por todo auditório quando as pessoas veem o próprio corpo entrando em forma. Herik e Geoff não são especialistas em medicina, mas notaram que o corpo, com a ajuda de Deus, age em direção à cura, quando as pessoas fazem o que Ele deseja. Geoff ainda tem um caminho a percorrer para atingir o peso ideal. Mas, já perdeu quase 35 quilos em 18 meses e se sente melhor do que nunca. “Consigo correr, subir e pular!”, ele diz com um grande sorriso. “Se eu posso fazer isso, qualquer um pode fazer.”

A obesidade é um grande problema nas Ilhas Salomão e contribui para uma série de doenças, incluindo diabetes. Parte da oferta do trimestre apoiará “Save 10.000 Toes” (Salve 10.000 pés), programa que foi criado no final de 2017, e financia as aulas de ginástica da comunidade de Herik e Geoff. Muito obrigado por suas ofertas missionárias da Escola Sabatina.

<Box 1>

### **Programa de exercício de 45 minutos**

- Todos se reúnem em um círculo e, de mãos dadas, fazem uma oração.
- O treinador explica os exercícios do dia.
- Quatro minutos de exercícios para ativação muscular; com polichinelos, agachamentos e flexões. Esses são exercícios de perda de peso.
- Seis minutos de alongamento corporal.

- Treino de oito minutos, das partes superior, meio e inferior do corpo. Vinte segundos por exercício.
- Dez a 20 minutos de exercício de relaxamento corporal e muscular.
- Todos se reúnem em um círculo para oração.

<Box 2>

### **Sugestão da história**

- Assista ao video sobre Geoff no *link*: [bit.ly/Geoffrey-Samuel](https://bit.ly/Geoffrey-Samuel).
- Encontre fotos desta história no *link*: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Leia mais sobre Herik na história da semana passada.

## **6º Sábado**

### **Fazendo o bem**

Embora Kinnie Aitoreia tivesse 18 anos, foi eleita como diaconisa na igreja do internato adventista nas Ilhas Salomão. Kinnie ficou muito entusiasmada! A mãe era diaconisa e nunca pensava que a filha receberia esse cargo.

Certo dia, o pastor chamou as oito diaconisas da igreja, quatro alunas, incluindo Kinnie, e quatro adultas, para uma reunião para discutir as responsabilidades do cargo na igreja do *Betikama Adventist College*. Naquela reunião, ele reservou para Kinnie e outra jovem diaconisa, sua amiga Wendy, uma tarefa muito especial: descobrir se havia alguma garota no residencial feminino que precisava de algo.

Kinnie e Wendy saíram da reunião e foram direto ao trabalho. Elas caminharam pelo residencial feminino, um grande cômodo com beliches para 40 meninas, olharam as camas para ver se as meninas tinham bons lençóis, cobertores e travesseiros.

Também examinaram se tinham roupas e material escolar, como canetas e caderno. Quando viam que uma garota precisava de ajuda, se aproximavam para conversar.

“Como você está?”, Wendy perguntava. “Como está a escola?” “Você precisa de ajuda?” Kinnie complementou. Algumas garotas disseram que precisavam de roupas. Outras precisavam de canetas e caderno. Então, Kinnie e Wendy viram a cama de Mitlyn Todonga. Um cobertor fino estava dobrado na parte de baixo do beliche. Não havia colchão, nem lençol nem travesseiro. As duas jovens diaconisas viram que Mitlyn também não tinha a camisa branca e a camiseta de mangas compridas pretas que os alunos precisavam para as aulas e outras atividades.

Mitlyn era uma aluna novata, estava no sétimo ano e chegara recentemente de outra ilha. Os pais dela, que não eram adventistas, esforçavam-se para ajudar a filha. A mãe fazia pães doces recheados de creme e picolés de limão para o pai vender. Mas o dinheiro não era suficiente. Kinnie e Wendy planejaram conversar com Mitlyn, mas foram informadas de que ela viajara com o coral da escola para um concerto no museu na capital, Honiara.

Então, as garotas disseram algo que entristeceu Kinnie. Mitlyn chorava à noite porque algumas alunas zombavam da pobreza dela e sua família. Quando ela estava perto, as garotas se referiam a ela com muita ironia. “Ela nem sequer tem uma cama adequada”, dizia uma. “Por que ela veio pra cá?”, outra questionava. Kinnie e Wendy foram conversar com o pastor e contaram sobre Mitlyn. “Tudo bem, vamos conseguir um colchão e roupas”, ele disse.

Os três foram até a cidade e compraram um colchão com cinco centímetros de espessura. Assim, Mitlyn teria um colchão macio e confortável. Também compraram um lençol marrom, um cobertor com pequenas flores, um travesseiro, uma fronha marrom, uma camisa branca, camiseta preta, caderno, canetas, sabonete, creme dental e escova de dente.

Voltando ao residencial, as meninas arrumaram a cama e colocaram as roupas e outros produtos em cima do colchão. Depois, disseram ao pastor que tinham terminado a tarefa. Naquela noite, Mitlyn voltou da viagem do coral e ficou chocada ao ver a cama. “De quem é esse colchão?”, ela perguntou às outras garotas. “É seu”, uma colega respondeu. “Alguém comprou para você”, disse outra. “Mas, quem comprou?”, Mitlyn perguntou, e ficou sabendo que Kinnie e Wendy haviam feito as compras.

Naquela noite, quando Kinnie voltou ao residencial, Mitlyn correu em sua direção chorando. “Eu nunca pensei que alguém compraria um colchão ou roupas para mim”, disse. “Isto é demais! Você fez algo muito importante! Meu pai ficará muito feliz!”

Kinnie também ficou muito feliz ao ver a alegria de Mitlyn. Ela percebeu que Deus tem um plano para as pessoas ajudarem seu semelhante. “Tudo bem”, Kinnie disse, dando um abraço em Mitlyn, e acrescentou: “Deus deseja que ajudemos os outros.”

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### **Sugestões para a história**

- Saiba que o *Betikama Adventist College* tem 520 estudantes que moram em cinco dormitórios de meninas e seis dormitórios de meninos, e na comunidade.
- Pergunte à congregação se alguém já deu ou recebeu um presente surpresa. Como se sentiram? Mitlyn disse: “Eu realmente gosto do colchão porque minha mãe e meu pai não o compraram. Kinnie e Wendy compraram. Eu realmente valorizo – e gosto das flores do lençol.”
- Combine com sua classe de escola sabatina fazer uma surpresa para algum necessitado e organize o projeto.
- Assista ao vídeo sobre Kinnie no *link*: [bit.ly/Kinnie-Aitoreia](https://bit.ly/Kinnie-Aitoreia).
- Encontre fotos desta história no *link*: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).

## **7º Sábado**

### **A guarda do sábado**

Sophie Buama aceitou o sábado com o dia de guarda quando o pastor falou sobre o quarto mandamento, em uma campanha evangelística realizada em outubro de 2017. Felizmente, ela não precisou sair do emprego em Nova Caledônia, um território francês no Pacífico Sul. Sophie trabalhava quatro dias por semana, das terças-feiras às sextas-feiras, no supermercado em Mebuet, um vilarejo na pequena ilha de Maré.

Outra colega, Celine, trabalhava nos outros dias. Mas, dependendo da estação do ano, o por do sol da sexta-feira era entre às 17h30min e 18h45min.

Com a nova experiência, Sophie se sentiu muito mal por trabalhar nas primeiras horas do sábado. Ela não tinha coragem de pedir demissão, porque era muito difícil conseguir emprego e seu salário ajudava a alimentar a família toda. Por isso, orou para que Deus mudasse sua escala de trabalho.

Então, chegou mais uma sexta-feira e Sophie estava preocupada em iniciar o sábado trabalhando, quando recebeu um telefonema de Celine. A colega de trabalho disse que estava na capital, Numeia, em outra ilha e não conseguiu reservar uma passagem de avião de volta para Maré. “Você poderia me substituir amanhã, por favor?”, perguntou. “Não posso, amanhã vou à igreja”, Sophie respondeu. “Você sabe que é meu dia de adorar a Deus.”

Pouco tempo depois, Sophie recebeu uma mensagem de texto no celular da proprietária do supermercado, que também estava na capital de Nova Caledônia. “Você precisa abrir a loja amanhã e trabalhar no sábado”, escreveu a proprietária. Sophie mandou uma mensagem de volta: “Não, amanhã é meu dia para adorar a Deus, então não abrirei o supermercado.”

Depois de um momento, a dona respondeu: “Não há problemas. Feche o supermercado.” Sophie ficou preocupada, e decidiu conversar com uma irmã da igreja. “Não tema o homem”, a irmã respondeu. “Tema ao Senhor.” No domingo, a colega ainda estava viajando, e Sophie abriu o supermercado. A proprietária, que conseguiu um voo de volta, foi ao trabalho e estava furiosa. “Este supermercado nunca fechou no sábado e não quero que isso se repita”, disse. Sophie lembrou a proprietária sobre suas crenças e acrescentou: “Se quiser me despedir, sinta-se livre para fazê-lo.”

Algumas semanas depois, Sophie conseguiu uma folga de quatro dias para viajar com sua filha adolescente, Catherine, para a capital. Ao voltar, foi informada que precisaria trabalhar para compensar sua ausência. Dois dias caíram no sábado. Sophie tentou trocar dias com sua colega de trabalho, mas a dona insistiu que ela trabalhasse, e ela trabalhou nos dois sábados, e chorou muito enquanto trabalhava. À noite, não conseguia dormir. Desesperada, orou: “Deus, ajude-me a não trabalhar mais no sábado!”, e também pediu que os irmãos da igreja orassem por ela.

Alguns dias depois, a proprietária anunciou uma nova escala de trabalho. Sophie trabalhava a mais cada dia, a pedido da proprietária, o que ficou muito custoso, por

causa do pagamento pelas horas extras. “A partir de agora, você trabalhará de domingo a quarta-feira”, disse a proprietária. Sophie não podia acreditar no que ouvia! Um grande sorriso encheu seu rosto enquanto corria para casa e dava a notícia ao marido. O salário diminuiu, mas Sophie não se importa. Ela pode adorar a Deus no sábado. “Meu salário não é importante, meu tempo com Deus é”, diz. “Minha alegria é ter liberdade para adorar a Deus no sábado.”

Há três anos, parte da oferta trimestral ajudou a construir duas salas de aula da Escola Sabatina para crianças na Maré, inclusive na igreja de Sophie. Muito obrigado por suas ofertas missionárias que ajudam crianças e adultos a aprenderem a respeito de Deus.

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### **Sugestões para a história**

- Leia, no Informativo dos Menores ou no *link* [bit.ly/saved-by-finger](https://bit.ly/saved-by-finger), sobre como o marido de Sophie, Georges, orou durante dez anos por sua conversão.
- Pergunte que conselho pode ser dado aos trabalhadores que enfrentam conflitos no sábado. Sophie disse: “Ore a Deus e O coloque em primeiro lugar. Então, você verá o milagre que Deus pode realizar para você.”
- Ore pelo vilarejo de Sophie, Mebuet. Sophie e seu marido são os únicos adventistas em um lugar com 1.500 habitantes.
- Assista ao vídeo sobre Sophie no *link*: [bit.ly/Sophie-Buama](https://bit.ly/Sophie-Buama).
- Encontre as fotos desta história no *link*: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).

## **8º Sábado**

### **Anjos na tempestade**

Annie Paama cresceu em um lar adventista na ilha do Pacífico Sul de Nova Caledônia. Mas, aos 16 anos, abandonou a igreja e mudou para casa do namorado, Leonce. Pouco tempo depois, tiveram dois filhos. Leonce bebia muito.

Constantemente chegava em casa embriagado suscitando discussões tensas entre o casal. Algumas vezes ele batia nos filhos.

Certa noite, Annie ouviu Leonce gritando enquanto subia a colina em direção à casa, na cidade de Numeia. Ela percebeu que o marido estava embriagado. Uma chuva fina caía. Metereologistas previram que o ciclone Erika atingiria Nova Caledônia e solicitaram às pessoas a permanecer em casa. Annie não queria ficar presa em casa com um homem bêbado e violento. Ela pegou a filha de três anos, Morgane, e o filho de oito anos, Leonce Junior, colocou-os no carro e saiu de casa. Dirigiu Annie dirigiu até que o ponteiro do tanque de combustível mostrasse que estava vazio. Estacionou perto de uma árvore, sem saber onde estava, mas certa que estava em um local seguro na tempestade. Um vento forte açoitava o carro e um arrepio percorreu o interior. Annie percebeu que não havia levado cobertores quentes.

Ela olhou os filhos, e eles pareciam adormecidos da longe viagem. Então, lembrou-se de Deus pela primeira vez em muitos anos. “Deus, se Você existe, cuide de mim e dos meus filhos nesta noite”, disse. Assim que terminou a oração, um profundo cansaço tomou conta dela, levando-a a recostar-se no banco do veículo, enquanto olhou pela janela. Piscou e olhou novamente. Para sua surpresa, as nuvens recuaram e o céu se abriu.

Annie tremeu de medo ao olhar para cima. Viu milhares de anjos andando vigorosamente para frente e para trás no céu. Esticou o pescoço, esperando ver o trono de Deus. Então, os céus se fecharam e uma escada se estendeu do céu para o carro. Parecia uma escada gigante de corda. Os anjos usavam vestes de um branco brilhante, mais branco do que qualquer branco que Annie já tivesse visto. Ela não conseguiu ver claramente o rosto deles. Só conseguia dizer que eles eram altos, tinham asas e brilhavam intensamente com uma luz branca. Um anjo parou na frente do carro e estendeu as asas gigantescas, alcançando a parte de trás do carro. Os outros dois anjos ficaram um de cada lado do carro, cobrindo-o também com as asas.

Annie ficou apavorada e tremia de medo. Então, sentiu que o automóvel balançava como se fosse um bebê sendo balançado nos braços da mãe. Um calor agradável aqueceu o interior do carro. De repente, o medo de Annie sumiu e ela sentiu paz. Os olhos ficaram pesados e ela dormiu profundamente, acordando mais tarde ao som do canto dos pássaros. Olhou para a janela e viu que a escada descer novamente do céu. Os anjos dobraram as asas e subiram a escada. Enquanto os anjos subiam, Annie começou a tremer de frio. Nesse evento grandioso aconteceu, Annie percebeu que a oração havia sido respondida de maneira extraordinária.



Imediatamente entregou o coração a Jesus. “Nunca mais voltarei a meus hábitos mundanos. Prometo viver para Ti”, orou, entregando-se a Ele

De alguma forma, Annie percebeu ter suficiente combustível no carro para ir à casa da mãe, que se opunha ao namoro e, durante anos, recusara-se ajudá-la. Mas, então, a recebeu de braços abertos, dando-lhe dinheiro para abastecer o veículo.

De volta à sua casa, Annie descobriu que ela sobrevivera ao ciclone intocada, embora as casas dos vizinhos tivessem sofrido danos. Ela derrubou fotos de Bob Marley e maconha das paredes, pegou suas joias e as jogou na fogueira. As chamas ainda estavam acesas quando Leonce voltou do trabalho. Ao ver a expressão de perplexidade no semblante do marido, Annie explicou que entregara o coração a Jesus. Leonce, então, perguntou sobre a noite anterior: “Onde você e as crianças estavam? Cheguei em casa e a encontrei vazia.” Annie contou que o tinha ouvido gritar, bêbado, enquanto subia a colina, por isso fugiu para evitar mais uma briga. Leonce sacudiu calmamente a cabeça e respondeu: “Não era eu. Não bebi ontem.”

Firmemente, Annie manteve a promessa de servir a Deus. Casou-se com Leonce e foi rebatizada. Ela também se tornou diaconisa da igreja adventista do sétimo dia Bethany, função que já havia ocupado por dez anos. Depois de ouvir a história do anjo, Leonce deixou de ser violento. Annie ora por seu batismo. Os filhos, agora adolescentes, mal podem acreditar que fizeram parte de uma noite tão memorável. Eles desejam passar por uma experiência semelhante. Annie sempre diz que isso é possível. “Vocês precisam manter um relacionamento com Deus e conversar com Ele. Então, Ele Se revelará a vocês.”

Há três anos, as ofertas do trimestre ajudaram a construir duas salas de Escola Sabatina para as crianças em Maré, uma ilha na Nova Caledônia. Muito agradecemos a vocês, por ajudarem pessoas a conhecer a Deus.

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### **Sugestão para a história**

- Pergunte aos ouvintes na congregação como Deus os levou até Ele. Annie diz que aquela noite foi um ponto de virada em sua vida: “Eu não estaria na igreja hoje se Deus não tivesse me dado essa experiência naquela noite”.
- Assistir ao vídeo sobre Annie no *link*: [bit.ly/Annie-Paama](https://bit.ly/Annie-Paama).

- Encontre fotos desta história no *link*: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).

## 9º Sábado

### “Olá, Hope Channel”

William Arama, pastor na cidade de Kerikeri, no norte da Nova Zelândia, leu o e-mail com interesse. “Olá, Hope Channel”, dizia a mensagem. “Minha esposa e eu nos mudaremos em breve para Kerikeri. Queremos informações sobre uma igreja para frequentar. Faz algum tempo, vimos um programa organizado por um homem em uma academia em Kerikeri. Quero saber como entrar em contato com ele. Nós também amamos seus programas. Seu irmão em Cristo, Colin Horsfall.”

Enquanto lia a mensagem, William sentiu o coração palpitar de alegria. Foi muito bom saber que alguém assistia ao seu programa e que corações eram tocados. E agora aquele casal desejava conhecer sua igreja. Ele ficou impressionado. William respondeu agradecendo a audiência e a admiração de Colin e esposa pelo canal Hope Channel. Explicou que Kerikeri, localizada na região norte da Nova Zelândia, a 250 km da capital, Auckland, era uma pequena cidade com 7.500 habitantes. Disse que a igreja adventista se reunia as dez horas da manhã, no sábado, em uma comunidade de aposentados. “Ficaremos muito felizes se o casal se unir a nós. Se precisarem de ajuda, telefone para mim”, concluiu. Colin agradeceu, prometendo entrar em contato em breve.

Faz alguns anos que William chegou a Kerikeri, para plantar a primeira igreja adventista do sétimo dia da cidade, onde havia somente uma família adventista e ele não conhecia ninguém. Depois de orar sobre como avançar a o trabalho, decidiu abrir uma academia. “Deus me deu essa ideia brilhante e disse: ‘Por que você não abre uma academia?’”, lembra William. “Eu comecei com uma academia, porque sabia que conheceria muitas pessoas.” Assim foi. Ele também contribuiu para a Hope Channel da Nova Zelândia, um canal de TV afiliada da igreja adventista internacional. A Hope Channel começou a transmitir para todos os lares, graças às ofertas missionárias trimestrais de 2016.

Um dos programas que Williams apresentava dava dicas de exercícios para academia. No programa, ele descrevia como as pessoas estão preocupadas com a saúde física e perguntava: “Bem, e quanto à sua saúde espiritual?” Esse programa em particular teve grande impacto sobre Colin e a esposa, Robyn, que estavam se preparando para se mudar de Kaitaia, uma cidade localizada aproximadamente 100 quilômetros a noroeste de Kerikeri. O casal frequentava uma igreja pertencente a outra denominação cristã naquela cidade.

Certo sábado, Colin e Robyn apareceram na igreja de William pela primeira vez. Os 12 membros da igreja os receberam calorosamente. Eles assistiram ao sermão e, depois, desfrutaram do almoço com os irmãos. “Todos foram amistosos, eles se sentiram bem acolhidos, e continuam frequentando a igreja”, informa William. Ele descobriu que Colin, 75 anos, era um ciclista vencedor de medalhas na principal competição de ciclismo do país, os Jogos Mundiais dos Veteranos. Robyn gostava muito de assistir ao Hope Channel e, depois de ver William na televisão, o cumprimentava no sábado, dizendo: “Vi meu pastor favorito durante a semana”.

Em pouco tempo, Colin e Robyn pediram estudos bíblicos e estão se preparando para o batismo. William acredita firmemente que o Hope Channel abre muitas portas na Nova Zelândia, onde a Igreja Adventista tem lutado para fazer incursões em uma sociedade altamente secularizada. “Essa é a maneira pela qual Deus consegue Se aproximar daqueles que provavelmente lidam com problemas que não confiam em compartilhar com outras pessoas. Eles não querem ser vistos na igreja”, diz William. “Mas através do Hope Channel, podem sentar-se confortavelmente em casa e ouvir a mensagem de Deus.”

Muito obrigado porque, em 2016, a oferta do segundo trimestre ajudou a Hope Channel a alcançar todos os lares na Nova Zelândia, divulgando as notícias da vinda de Jesus ao redor do mundo.

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### **Sugestões para a história**

- Pronúncia de Kerikery: Kerrikerry
- Encontre fotos desta história no *link*: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).

## **1º Sábado**

## Liberto do crime

Jayson Rogers clamou a um Deus que ele ainda não conhecia. Isso aconteceu quando tinha somente 12 anos. “Não sei como nem porque”, Jayson diz. “Estava sozinho na noite, na escuridão, chorando em cima do travesseiro.” Caçula de nove irmãos, ele morava com um casal de tios no norte da Nova Zelândia, quando orou para que Deus interviesse em sua vida. Seus pais o consideravam muito desobediente e ele foi expulso da escola. Embora fosse apenas um garoto, invadia as casas e roubava os carros. Aos dez anos, ele comprou seu primeiro carro com o salário, recebido por ajudar o pai em um canteiro de obras. O carro, conforme ele mesmo costumava dizer, era um “poço de ferrugem”, mas ele só queria a placa. Nos anos seguintes, ele colocou a placas em nove carros que roubou.

Jayson não recebeu uma resposta imediata à oração daquela noite, e, aproximadamente um ano depois, os pais o enviaram para casa na capital de Nova Zelândia, Auckland. Ali, o garoto mergulhou profundamente na vida de crimes. Aos quinze anos, roubou sua primeira planta de maconha e se mudou para a casa da namorada, Krystal. Entrou para uma gangue e se manteve vendendo maconha por vários anos. Então, tornou-se viciado em metanfetamina e vendia a droga para manter o hábito por onze anos.

“Estava envolvido fortemente com gangue e o submundo”, disse. “Eu era conhecido por invadir casas, sequestrar e extorquir. Tinha três cozinheiros e quatro distribuidores de drogas trabalhando para mim em regime de sindicato.” Ele também carregava maços de dinheiro. A cada dois dias ele ganhava 10 mil dólares neozelandeses (\$7.000) com a venda de metanfetamina.

Então, certo dia, um homem chamado Andrew se aproximou na piscina pública e o convidou para participar de aulas de *kickboxing* gratuita. Jayson aproveitou a oportunidade, porque esperava melhorar seu poder de intimidação e luta de rua. Juntou-se a um grupo de outros tipos de gângsteres no salão de esportes às quartas-feiras à noite. Andrew liderou o grupo em uma hora de exercícios pesados. Certo dia, ele apareceu com uma pilha de Bíblias e anunciou: “Vamos nos reunir em volta da mesa e compartilhar este livro.” Jayson ficou chocado, desejou ir embora, mas, por alguma razão, ficou no local. Andrew falou por trinta minutos e Jayson se enfureceu

com a ideia de Deus. Pensou: “Quem é Deus? Eu sou o deus no meu mundo. Tenho funcionários, meus próprios subalternos. Sou respeitado e altamente admirado. Eu sou deus.”

Porém, voltou à realidade quando Andrew leu as palavras de Jesus: “Não acumulem para vocês tesouros na terra, onde a traça e a ferrugem destroem e onde os ladrões arrombam e furtam. Mas acumulem para vocês tesouros nos céus, onde a traça e a ferrugem não destroem e onde os ladrões não arrombam nem furtam” (Mt 6:19, 20, NVI).

Jayson ficou confuso. Como poderia acumular as riquezas no Céu, fora do alcance da ferrugem e ladrões? Ele pensou sobre o assunto durante toda a semana e começou a frequentar as aulas regularmente. Em seguida, Andrew perguntou se ele poderia ajudar a liderar a classe. Jayson ficou surpreso e satisfeito ao mesmo tempo. Para qualificar-se como instrutor, ele precisava fazer um curso de primeiros-socorros na igreja de Andrew, a Comunidade Adventista do Sétimo Dia Papatoetoe.

Em pouco tempo, Jayson, Krystal e os sete filhos estavam participando do culto divino no sábado. Finalmente, aceitou Jesus e, após 21 anos morando com a namorada, pediu-lhe a mão em casamento. A igreja ficou em festa com o grande batismo, quando ele, a esposa e cinco filhos foram batizados no mesmo dia, um sábado. Os dois filhos mais novos foram dedicados ao Senhor.

Jayson, hoje com 36 anos, diz que sua vida mudou completamente nos últimos três anos. “Não vivemos mais cercados com muros altos, tacos de baseball, espingardas de cano curto e facas estilo Rambo”, diz. “Agora vivemos cercados com muros brancos e possuo minha própria empresa de faz-tudo.” Ele ainda ajuda a liderar a aula de *kickboxing*, que rendeu um total de aproximadamente seis batismos. Uma lágrima desliza pelo rosto enquanto pensava em seus pais. “Eu costumava receber telefonemas da minha mãe preocupada, todos os dias”, disse ele em uma entrevista em um restaurante de Auckland. “Ela testemunhou a natureza feia do que eu havia me tornado. Agora não ouço mais suas críticas e isso é um bom sinal.” Seu desejo é levar Cristo aos pais e outras pessoas.

“Agora estou feliz e em paz”, diz. “Não mudaria isso por nada. Agora sou um discípulo de Jesus e quero compartilhar Sua Palavra sempre que puder e de qualquer maneira que Ele desejar.”

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### **Sugestões para a história**

- Assista ao vídeo sobre Jayson no *link*: [bit.ly/Jayson-Rogers](https://bit.ly/Jayson-Rogers).
- Encontre fotos desta história no *link*: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).

## **11º Sábado**

### **Vencedor em meio à provação**

Joeli Rabo, um corretor de seguros em Fiji, abriu os olhos, ainda na cama do hospital e encarou a tia desesperada. “Filho, você precisa abandonar igreja. Não leve sua nova crença para o vilarejo”, disse ela. “É maldição para você. Muito mais azar virá se você mantê-la. Você adora a Deus em um dia diferente. É o dia errado. Agora você está sofrendo as consequências.” Ele apenas olhou para os braços enfaixados. Eles haviam se quebrado no acidente de carro. Dois sobrinhos morreram.

Quando Joeli foi batizado, surgiu um desejo ardente de compartilhar a fé com seus conterrâneos em sua terra natal, Nabouciwa. Mas ele teve uma recepção hostil dos moradores, entre eles, alguns familiares que pertenciam a outra denominação cristã. Entretanto, Joeli organizou reuniões evangelísticas e dez pessoas foram batizadas. Ele conseguiu um terreno para construir uma igreja e agendou um dia para que ele e os novos membros da igreja limpassem aquele terreno.

No dia anterior, Joeli acordou cedo para levar o sobrinho de 27 anos até o aeroporto de Nadi. Em seu Sedan Subaru, estavam com ele sua irmã, outros dois sobrinhos e seu filho de 13 anos. Aproximadamente às 4 da manhã, Joeli adormeceu no volante e o carro capotou. Um sobrinho de 27 anos e outro de 16 anos morreram instantaneamente. A mãe deles e o outro sobrinho, de 13 anos, foram hospitalizados com ferimentos sérios. Joeli quebrou os braços. Mas, de alguma forma, seu filho escapou sem ferimentos.

A tia de Joeli foi visitá-lo no hospital para tentar convencê-lo a desistir de construir uma igreja adventista. Da cama onde estava, Joeli olhou para ela e disse: “Tia, você só tem um filho. Se eu morresse na cama do hospital para que seu filho se tornasse

adventista, agradeceria a Deus pela oportunidade de entregar minha vida pela vida do seu filho.” A tia se afastou com lágrimas escorrendo pela face.

Embora falasse confiantemente, ele não tinha certeza sobre o que aconteceria em relação ao prédio da igreja, mas orou durante o mês que ficou internado no hospital: “Querido Deus, não sei se estou cumprindo Sua vontade.” Mas, quando deixou o hospital, não teve dúvida que a igreja deveria ser construída.

Ele repete as palavras de Ellen White: “Sofrimento tem sido a porção do povo de Deus desde os dias do mártir Abel. Os patriarcas sofreram por serem verdadeiros a Deus e obedientes aos Seus mandamentos. O grande Líder da igreja sofreu por nossa causa; Seus primeiros apóstolos e a igreja primitiva sofreram; milhões de mártires padeceram; os reformadores também. E por que deveríamos nós, que temos a bendita esperança da imortalidade, a se consumir na breve volta de Cristo, recuarmos de uma vida de sofrimento?” (*Testemunhos Para a Igreja*, v.1, p. 78).

Joeli percebeu que poderia haver momentos de sofrimento ao divulgar o evangelho, porque o Inimigo estava irado. A igreja foi construída em um mês e ele ficou muito feliz por isso. Então, sentiu desejo de construir outra em um vilarejo chamado Kiuva. Mas, obviamente, não queria que acontecesse nenhuma tragédia. Por isso, ele e os membros da igreja decidiram jejuar e orar duas vezes durante a semana enquanto visitavam os habitantes do vilarejo. “Senhor, tive uma experiência ruim na minha terra natal”, Joeli orou diariamente. “Agora desejo levar o evangelho para outro vilarejo. Por favor, não permita vivermos uma experiência igual àquela. Guie meus passos para que não sofra da mesma forma.”

Para sua surpresa, um dos habitantes gostou dos adventistas e convidou Joeli para dirigir o culto sabático na casa dele. Posteriormente, doou um terreno para a construção da igreja. Joeli diz que jejuar e orar ajudou para que a igreja fosse construída facilmente. Então foi para o terceiro vilarejo, Buretu. Novamente, ele e os membros da igreja jejuaram e oraram. Para sua alegria, o chefe da aldeia e sua família foram batizados.

Mas uma tragédia atingiu a cidade antes da construção da igreja: o chefe morreu de diabetes. Os moradores da vila se questionavam se ele foi punido por tornar-se adventista. Joeli disse que o diabo estava usando a morte do chefe para atacar o trabalho adventista e acredita que o prédio da igreja será construído. Ele também está ansioso pela oferta especial deste trimestre, que ajudará a prevenir a morte por

diabetes, financiando um projeto de saúde chamado “Salve 10.000 toe” (Salve 10.000 pés).

De acordo com Joeli, Deus prevalecerá no vilarejo. Ao ser entrevistado, ele se lembrou do que aconteceu logo após à conversa com a tia sobre a disposição de morrer pelo filho dela. Esse filho e os quatro filhos de Joeli foram batizados e se tornaram adventistas. “Quando visitei minha tia antes de seu falecimento, ela agradeceu por compartilhar a mensagem com o filho dela”, Joeli diz. “Deus controla tudo.”

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### **Sugestões para a história**

- Assistir o vídeo sobre Joeli no *link*: [bit.ly/Joeli-Rabo](https://bit.ly/Joeli-Rabo).
- Encontre fotos desta história no *link*: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).

## **12º Sábado**

### **Evangelismo no funeral**

Ninguém queria ajudar Tito quando o pai dele morreu. “Você não tem uma igreja onde fazer o funeral”, alguém disse. “Simplesmente o enterre”, disse outra pessoa. Os moradores do distante vilarejo fijiano de Nakavika deram às costas ao pai de Tito, porque ele se havia convertido à igreja adventista. Os outros habitantes, incluindo Tito, pertenciam a outra denominação cristã. Entretanto, ele queria que o pai tivesse um funeral apropriado e apelou a seu primo, chefe do vilarejo. O chefe garantiu um funeral na igreja, sob a condição de que Tito construísse uma igreja adventista.

Então, ele construiu um pequeno galpão e com os parentes se aglomeraram no local. Um pastor adventista fez um sermão sobre o estado dos mortos, e Tito ouviu em choque. Ele sempre acreditou que as pessoas vão ao céu quando morrem. Mas o pastor descreveu a morte como um sono e mostrou que Jesus também considerou a morte um sono, na história de Lázaro (João 11).



A irmã de Tito ofereceu a ele uma Bíblia para ler enquanto o pastor pregava. Ele viu que as palavras de João 11 combinavam com o que o pastor dizia. Então, o pastor leu I Tessalonicenses 4:16, onde é dito que os mortos acordarão de seus respectivos túmulos por ocasião da vinda de Jesus: “pois, dada a ordem, com a voz do arcanjo e o ressoar da trombeta de Deus, o próprio Senhor descenderá dos céus, e os mortos em Cristo ressuscitarão primeiro” (NVI). Mais uma vez, Tito olhou a Bíblia e viu que combinava com as palavras do pastor. Não havia o costume de ler a Bíblia nos cultos de sua igreja.

Quando os enlutados se reuniram para a refeição após o funeral, Tito se aproximou de um convidado adventista e pediu: “Por favor, venha à minha casa. Quero saber mais sobre o que acontece quando as pessoas morrem.” O adventista prontamente o acompanhou até sua casa e deu um estudo bíblico sobre o estado dos mortos. Tito queria saber mais e convidou o homem para voltar e realizar mais estudos bíblicos.

Mas a esposa, Vika, não quis participar. Ela se trancava com os dois filhos em outro quarto quando o irmão adventista chegava. Passados dois meses, Tito chegou ao estudo sobre o batismo e expressou o desejo de ser batizado. Ao saber da decisão do marido, Vika chorou. “Eu escolhi você porque tínhamos as mesmas crenças”, ela disse. “Se você mudar de igreja, é melhor nos separarmos. Temos dois filhos. Você fica com um e eu ficarei com o outro.”

Tito ficou triste, mas não seria influenciado. “Vika, a partir de agora Deus será o número 1 na minha vida e você será minha segunda prioridade”, ele disse. “Mas prometo uma coisa: Se meu amor por você será muito maior do que antes.” Após o batismo, Tito disse a Vika que não a impediria de frequentar a igreja aos domingos. Mas pediu para não cozinhar ou lavar roupa aos sábados. Disse que ele mesmo faria isso aos domingos.

Um mês se passou e Vika notou que o marido realmente não era o homem com quem ela havia se casado. Quando, no fim do dia, terminava seu trabalho como professor, ele não saía mais com os amigos para beber, não os convidava para conversas regadas a cigarros e palavras chulas. Em vez disso, ele ia direto do trabalho para casa, ficar com ela e as crianças. Ele não bebia, não fumava nem alava xingamentos.

Certo dia, ela ligou para ele, dizendo o seguinte: “Tito, realmente vi algo diferente em você. Você não é o Tito que eu conheci. Nós costumávamos brigar, mas não

discutimos mais. Já tivemos muitas diferenças, mas não agora. Temos muito tempo com a família juntos. Por favor, também quero conhecer esta verdade.”

Tito estava orando pela esposa e essas palavras alegraram o coração. O casal orou e ele providenciou estudos bíblicos. Em pouco tempo ela foi batizada. Hoje, Tito, 33, além do professorado exercido na escola tradicional, é também professor da Escola Sabatina. Vika é professora dos primários. Ele ministra estudos bíblicos para os moradores do vilarejo e duas pessoas foram batizadas.

É verdade que Tito também enfrentou problemas na escola por causa da fé. Certo dia, ele encontrou alguém urinando na escrivaninha dele. Outro dia, alguém escreveu obscenidades sobre ele na parede da escola. O diretor precisou ligar para a polícia quando um cidadão o ameaçou com uma faca. Mas ele está determinado em compartilhar o evangelho, e ora: “Deus, estou disposto a compartilhar Suas palavras para o restante desta comunidade. Por favor, usa-me.”

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### **Sugestões para a história**

- O primeiro nome de Tito é Kositela, mas todos chamam de Tito.
- Assista ao vídeo sobre Tito no *link*: [bit.ly/Kositela-Tito](https://bit.ly/Kositela-Tito).
- Encontre fotos desta história no *link*: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).

## **13º Sábado**

### **Programa do Décimo Terceiro Sábado**

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Hino inicial                      “Louvemos o Rei”, H.A., nº10

Boas-vindas                      Coordenador(a) ou professor(a) da Escola Sabatina

Oração

História “Uma nova vida”

Ofertas

Hino Final “Quão Grande és tu”, H.A., nº 34

Hino Final

Nota: o narrador não precisa memorizar a história mas deve estar familiarizado com o material para que não precise ler em público.

<Fim box>:

## **Uma nova vida**

Lepani Kuruduadua sentiu como se a vida tivesse acabado. O professor aposentado cortou a perna direita enquanto consertava uma igreja no vilarejo fijiano de Naqarani. O ferimento não cicatrizou e piorou, devido ao diabetes. Finalmente, o médico disse que a perna deveria ser amputada. Após a cirurgia, Lepani ficou deitado na cama por meses, imaginando o que restava na vida. Sentiu-se especialmente triste porque havia se unido à igreja adventista 17 anos antes, mas nunca usou suas duas pernas para levar alguém a Cristo. Agora tinha apenas uma.

Dez meses após a amputação, Lepani recebeu uma perna artificial e reaprendeu a caminhar. Ele pensava diariamente: “Preciso fazer algo para Deus, mesmo que tenha apenas uma perna.” Enquanto orava, lembrou-se de um vilarejo que, há muito tempo, ele e outros irmãos da igreja desejavam evangelizar. Então, decidiu pedir à família para ajudar a organizar séries evangelísticas.

Ele pegou um taxi até o vilarejo e foi recebido na porta por Anna, a filha. Ele soube que os parentes, dos quais ele queria a ajuda, tinham se mudado para a ilha de Nadi, localizada no outro lado do país. “Como você faz os cultos agora?”, ele perguntou a Anna. A jovem respondeu que às vezes se reunia com Nico, um vizinho que não pertencia a nenhuma denominação. “Vamos fazer uma pequena oração”, Lepani sugeriu. “Quero visitar a casa de Nico.”

Enquanto Lepani e Anna aproximaram da casa de Nico, a porta se abriu de repente e um homem correu em sua direção. “Você é a pessoa que estive esperando!”, o homem exclamou, enquanto convidava os visitantes para entrar. Depois, contou uma história incrível.

Ele disse que tinha orado para que alguém lhe falasse sobre Jesus, e prometeu se converter à denominação da primeira pessoa que fosse à casa dele. Naquela manhã, enquanto recolhia lenha no mato, sentiu uma forte impressão de que receberia a visita desejada. Ele correu para casa, mas ninguém estava lá. Tomou um banho e, enquanto colocava uma roupa, ouviu a voz de Lepani. “Quero ir à sua igreja”, Nico disse. “No próximo sábado irei com minha esposa e três filhas.”

Lepani orou com ele e expressou alegria por seu desejo de se unir à igreja. Mas ele disse: “No próximo sábado, eu virei aqui e abriremos uma igreja em sua casa”. Nos sete meses seguintes, Lepani realizou os cultos aos sábados na casa de Nico. Outros habitantes se juntaram a eles. Depois da série de palestras evangelísticas, 16 pessoas foram batizadas, incluindo Niko, a esposa e duas de suas três filhas.

Assim que quantidade de membros cresceu a igreja mudou da casa de Nico para seu próprio edifício. Lepani, hoje com 60 anos, está muito feliz e deseja plantar uma igreja em outro vilarejo neste ano. Seus planos é construir uma igreja em um terceiro vilarejo. Ele disse que perder a perna transformou sua vida. “O que eu não fazia com duas pernas, hoje faço com uma perna”, disse ele. “Percebi o que devo fazer.”

Parte da oferta especial do trimestre ajudará no programa “Save 10.000 Toes” (Salve 10.000 pés), um projeto destinado à prevenção do diabetes e auxílio aos pacientes diabéticos em Fiji.

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### **Sugestões para a história**

- Assistir ao vídeo sobre Lepani no *link*: [bit.ly/Lepani-K](https://bit.ly/Lepani-K).
- Encontre fotos desta história no *link*: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).